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THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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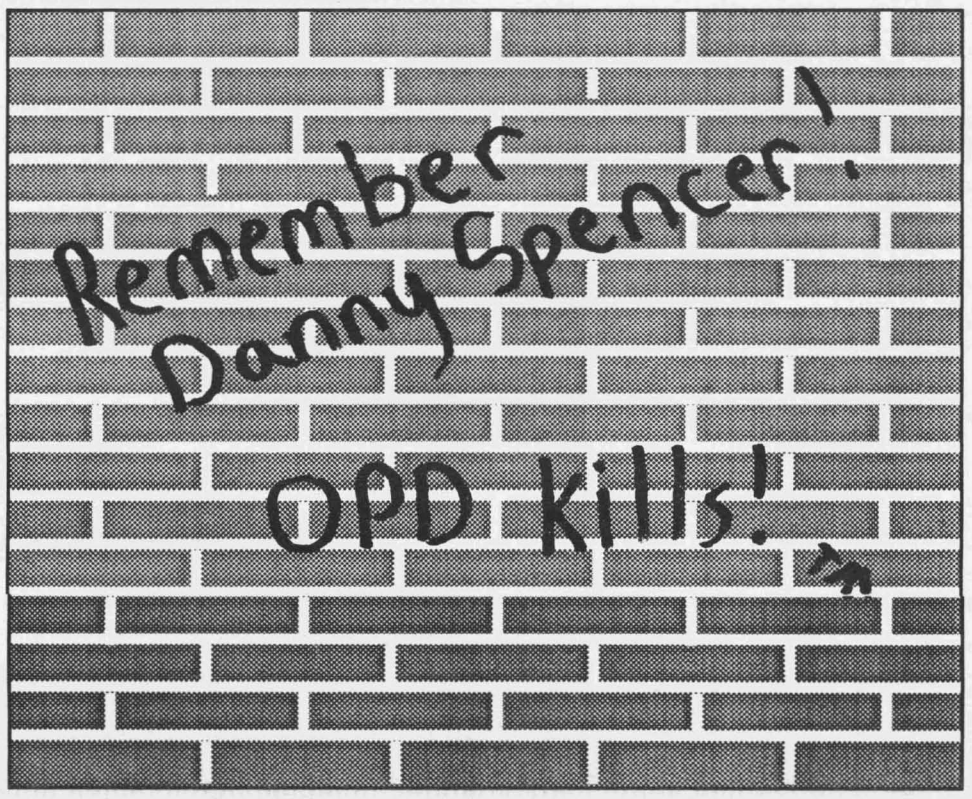
WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Government violence can do only one thing - and that is to breed counter-violence." Nelson Mandela

Free

After L.A.

Another Look At The Danny Spencer Case



Glenn Simonsen

As people everywhere are expressing disbelief and outrage over the verdict in the Rodney King case, it's appropriate to revisit the Olympia Police Department beating of Danny Spencer in 1989. Like Rodney Ring, Danny Spencer was severely beaten with nightsticks over most of his body. Unlike the case in Los Angeles, the Olympia officers committed a homicide.

On Saturday, June 17, 1989 Spencer had been drinking beer and using LSD and marijuana in the home of a friend on Olympia's east side. At around 10:30 pm he went outside with his brother to confront someone tampering with his van. At the same time, one of the neighbors called the police for a noise disturbance.

When the police arrived the trouble began after they did an identity check on Spencer. When they found he had failed to appear in court for two traffic fines they tried to arrest him. As they began putting on the handcuffs the 5'11" unemployed timber worker bolted away.

Although no one had a videocamera handy at the scene, there were numerous civilian eyewitnesses. The police said Spencer tripped and fell in the street, but other people said they brought him down with nightsticks. In what sounded like descriptions of the Rodney King video, eyewitnesses testified that two officers rhythmically took turns with their blows and continued the beating after he was down and shackled. Extensive injuries from the beating included internal hemorrhaging and one open gash in the head.

Strikingly similar are the parallels to the situation in L.A. Like Rodney Ring, Spencer was unarmed and heavily outnumbered. Seven officers took part in the arrest, two officers executed the beating and additional backup officers were present as well. Similarly to the LAPD officers, Olympia police said Spencer seemed impervious to pain from their baton blows. Though they said he fought with "superhuman" strength, none of the officers were injured in any way.

By the time Spencer was delivered to jail, the situation was critical. An Emergency Medical Technician from the Olympia firestation later testified that when he found Spencer he was alive and lying face down, legs shackled and arms handcuffed behind the back on the jail cell floor. The medic said he asked the police officer to remove the handcuffs immediately so that he might begin CPR. Although Spencer was unconscious and had stopped breathing, the officer refused, saying the suspect was far too dangerous. Only after argued insistence from the fireman did the officer comply, but by the time he did) Danny Spencer was dead.

The police said Spencer tripped and fell in the street, but other people said they brought him down with nightsticks.

Actual cause of death was eventually linked to asphyxia. While police Chief Wurner suggested drugs as the cause (the department raised the issue at every opportunity), a medical expert said there was "zero chance" that the drugs were responsible for the death.

Two reasons for the asphyxiation were named by the doctor who conducted the autopsy. The first was having placed Spencer face down on the back seat of the car where he was unconscious and unable to breath. The second was hemorrhaging around the carotid artery deep within the neck. The doctor testified the hemorrhage could have been caused by an officer's knee in the throat, but that he suspected use of the "sleeper hold" as likely. The controversial hold quickly cuts off

(Continued on back page)

No Justice, No Peace

Jerome Johnson

I am not the same person whose column you are accustomed to reading.

Twelve jurors changed my life forever last month when they acquitted Rodney King's brutalizers -- Koon, Wind, Powell and Briseno.

I've been black in America for more than thirty years, and one of the blessed and lucky few able to tell it. I'm in college, not jail or the military. Even so, according to statistics my most likely cause of death will be homicide; then racism, heart disease, diabetes or AIDS. The Christian white male-dominated law-enforcement structure addresses me at best indifferently and at worst violently. I live in a society which measures success in life by material wealth, mandating that I pull myself up by my bootstraps even though I scrounge tennis shoes from the Free Box because I can't afford to buy boots. I'm told not to look to Government for help, because there's no money (with or without tax increases), I would become welfare-dependent and that Government is getting out of people's lives anyway. There can be no "emergency appropriations" to help me or millions of other Americans--we aren't as important as Russians, Israelis, Egyptians, Pakistanis or the U.S. military-industrial complex, who are lavishly funded by tax money we can't afford to pay but pay anyway because we can afford penalties (including jail) even less.

As a black man in America, it has been made unrelentingly clear to me via the media that I am considered violent, stupid, poor, lazy, unattractive, unemployed and expendable. Unless I can sing, dance, joke or excel at sports I am considered to be untalented. For black women it's even worse: besides all of the above, they're considered to be worker drones and/or wanton sex objects. God help you if you're black AND gay, lesbian or disabled.

I knew these things before the verdict, just as I knew Latasha Harlins' 15-year-old life was worth $1.79 to the Korean grocer who blew her away over a bottle of orange juice and got five years' probation. When I came home and learned that another predominantly-white jury had again acquitted (endorsed?) whites of merrily brutalizing another defenseless person of color, I

(Continued on page.5)

Manning Marable - Along the Color Line — Page 4
More Discussion on the Westside — Page 6
A Case Against Free Trade — Page 7
Direct Action at Nevada Test Site — Page 10
Navy Persecutes Homosexual Sailors — Page 12
Roe v. Wade and Beyond — Page 15
Don't Buy That Beef! — Page 18
Local Community Supported Agriculture — Page 19

Letters

Congratulations, But . . .

Dear Editor:

I'd like to congratulate you on your second anniversary. It takes a lot of dedication on the part of many volunteers for a paper such as yours to make it through its first two years.

By all means wallow in your glory! But also beware that the battle for survival isn't over. If Works In Progress is like many other alternative journals, the next year could be your most difficult.

Consider, for example, your immediate predecessor, the South Sound Alliance. It was doing very well when it celebrated its second anniversary. Only 12 months later, however, the Alliance died, a victim of differences over the direction of the paper, staff burnout and a huge debt.

My point is not to be a profit of doom, but rather to suggest that complacency is deadly in the coming year. You may be inclined to call it the "Third Year Curse," but actually it's only a rite of passage. You've made it this far by operating in a pretty ad hoc fashion. In the next year, you'll find that this approach won't work anymore. Either WIP will develop increasingly sophisticated decision-making processes and financial planning, or it will join the Alliance in alternative press heaven.

I feel moved to say this in the wake of the censorship and (apparently temporary) purging of longtime Works In Progress staff member Matt Love.

Two things disturb me about the affair. First, I believe that now, more than ever, WIP cannot afford to cast aside Matt, who is one of Olympia's most knowledgeable and dedicated alternative journalists. Secondly, the way the controversy was handled was not in keeping with the ideals of a worker collective paper.

I am not saying this to fuel the name calling begun in the last WIP where G.J. Krupey unfairly described the paper's actions as a "Monty Python parody of Stalinism." All this kind of mud throwing will do is undermine yet another effort at establishing a strong alternative newspaper in Thurston County.

But I do hope this incident will spark a serious effort to develop systems for handling conflict that are fair to all concerned.

We are lucky to have in Thurston County activists highly skilled in training worker collective staffs. Don't be afraid to use these resources.

Whatever you do, however, don't engage in the politics of denial. WIP has a credibility problem with those of us in the progressive community who abhor censorship and petty back-room politics.

I consider this a test of your paper's viability. If WIP doesn't truly resolve the problems that prompted Matt's censorship and purging, I don't see how you will be able to tackle the many other challenges of the next year.

Steve Salmi

P.S. I greatly appreciated the diversity of articles in the last issue. Keep up the good work. We haven't received any renewal notices, so I assume it's probably time to pony up. It's okay to continue to leave us off your mailing list. That postage money saved is money earned, eh?

Anti-discrimination Clause Response

Dear WIPsters:

Regarding your proposed anti-discrimination clause, I suggest you change "sexual preference" to the more accurate and non-judgemental phrase "love orientation." If you think this may sound too "foreign" to most of your readers, "affectional/sexual orientation" will do. Please see the enclosed fact sheet on this topic. Thanks for asking.

Q. Why is the phrase "sexual preference" inaccurate and misleading?

A. Because heterosexuals have not consciously chosen to love, or stated a "preference" for loving, members of the opposite sex; they just feel it, and always have. No conscious, free-will "decision" is made to be heterosexual. "Orientation" is a more accurate word than "preference."

Further, heterosexuals are not oriented toward just "having sex" with members of the opposite gender; they have feelings of caring, affection, and love for them--and sexual activity is a reflection of those feelings to the same degree as it is a reflection of sexual attraction. "Love" is a more illuminating word than "sexual."

A more accurate, descriptive phrase for human sexuality is "love orientation."

The same is true for homosexuals and bisexuals.

Keep up the good work.

Curt Pavola

Tax Incentive

Hello friends at WIP,

It's tax time again and this year I've decided I will no longer contribute money to allow the US government to rape, murder, and torture around the globe.

Instead I'm contributing to local groups who are working for justice, peace, and a sustainable community and environment.

I encourage more people to do the same. I'm amazed at how willingly we hand over money to fund US dirty work.

I read WIP "cover to cover" and appreciate the variety of issues and perspectives.

Peace,

Susan Fairo

Capitalism. . .

Out By The Roots

Dear Sir,

The rioters think, no doubt, that they are effecting a revolution which is no more a revolution than King trying to free himself from the police. The result is the same. The police and army have the guns, bombs and tanks etc. and if used would end the riots in 5 minutes. History has shown they will not hesitate to kill the workers when the mines and factories are in danger or threat of danger. This time only the petty merchants that do business in the area are in danger. Also, the rioters instead of joining the other minorities for support and political pressure, make enemies of the other minorities by burning and looting their shops. Either hang together or hang separately only solidarity can make changes. All the riots have done is to make the police and courts more honest for a few months. The police are not the enemy, they are the emissaries of the capitalist class. The class that keeps everyone in poverty whether white, black, yellow, or red with low wages, overwork, and discrimination so that they can make obscene profits--profits that would be the envy of the robber barons of the 19th century.

To effect a peaceful revolution through the ballot box first, all races are needed to cooperate to refuse to operate the mines, mills, factories, transportation, etc. until the capitalists give in. If the ballot and strikes do not work or the capitalists refuse to turn over the industries and government by legal means, the Constitution gives the people the right to change the Constitution (which was born of revolution) through revolution when all else fails. Capitalism must be pulled out by the roots. There is no other way. Riots and reforms won't do it.

Yours truly,

Milton Poulos

HELP WANTED!!!

Works In Progress desperately needs your help. We are seeking a dedicated individual(s) to donate three hours of her/his/their time on the last Friday of the month to take the paper to Shelton to be printed. If you can assist us please contact Chris or Pat at 956- 9123.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell, Pat Holm, Evelyn Montague, Marie Smith, Teresa Jennings, Chris Russo, Sylvia Smith, Pat Tassoni, Al Zimmerman, Katharine Dawdy, Kirsten Holm, Jerome Johnson, Zachary D. Lyons, Marvin Saillard, Diana Arens

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the WIP Editorial Board and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (WordPerfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works in Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Watch Your Grammar

Dear Editor:

Please be a little more careful in your use of words in your otherwise thoughtful little journal. For instance, the May 1992 (vol. 3, no. 1) issue contains several articles about "media" in which the word "media" is used in the singular when it is in fact the plural form of "medium", so that one would expect to read a medium (such as a journal) is and media (such as journals, T.V. and radio) are.... If the writers of the articles do not know their vocabulary or grammar, the editor's pen can certainly correct them. Also, if words are wrongly used or the grammar incorrect, the readers may well wonder if the content or the subjects discussed in the articles are also carelessly researched.

Thank you.

Henry F. Hausen

Wanted: Women, Minority Builders

Minority and women contractors are encouraged to put their names on a list of contractors available for the City of Olympia's housing rehabilitation programs. The City of Olympia has two program which aid in the preservation and improvement of low-income housing. The Housing Rehabilitation Program provides housing rehabilitation loans to low- and moderate-income homeowners to encourage and assist in the repair of health and safety hazards and to encourage the conservation and improvement of older residential areas. The other program is an Investor Rehabilitation Loan program which is a financial assistance program designed to assist investor-owners in rehabilitating residential properties which serve the community by supplying safe and sanitary housing for low- and moderate- households to include the elderly, handicapped, and disabled.

Contractors must be licensed and bonded for general or specialty work. Contractors who would like to work with this very valuable program should write to the City of Olympia Community Development Dept, 203 E. 4th Avenue, Suite 321, Olympia, WA 98501. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to call 753-8198.

Talking About What Most People Won't Talk About

Sarah Light

My son, Ian, used to worry about kidnappers. Sometimes he thought that the world outside was filled with evil men in cars, driving slowly up and down the streets in search of young victims. I listened to Ian's fears, and I explained and reassured. But occasionally, when it was late at night, and I was beyond exhaustion, and Ian started talking about kidnappers once again,I wanted so desperately to tell him that there weren't any. That evil men did not exist. At least not in this neighborhood.

During the Persian Gulf War (does any war ever really end?) Ian asked if the bombs would explode here. We looked at a map together and traced with our fingers the distance between our home and the war zone. We talked about how were reasonably safe, but that many, many women, men and children were not. I kept a running commentary going while we watched the news, translating the jargon, and reminding Ian that it was not a video game.

Recently I joined a protest march, outraged by the acquittal of the brutal L.A.P.D. and by the day-to-day violence all around us. When I returned home, Ian told me that he had heard loud police sirens, and he had been worried about my safety.

I've discovered that one of my jobs as a parent is to talk about what most people won't talk about. I listen for the lies of omission and fill in the blanks.

I work to speak simply, to speak to the core of it. Giving Ian a list of lofty commandments "thou shalt not be racist, sexist, homophobic" is not nearly enough. We talk about choke holds. Necklacing. Lunch counters. About the local school superintendent who states that there are no "tensions" in his district, and about the local restaurant owner who became abusive when two women patrons were affectionate with each other. We talk about the white supremacist stickers and flyers we find all over Olympia. About "acquaintance rape". Street smarts and questioning authority.

Writing these words is a bit like being a parent. I think I have to be prepared, organized, choose a theme and stick to it. I have to present a balanced picture—one horror, one joy. But I find that I cannot write or talk about violence without flowing from one topic to another. It is all connected. Ian recently asked me what "home sapien" meant. It is used as a serious insult by elementary school children. How did a word meaning "human" become a curse? I think there is something profound to this, but I don"t have the words to express it.

I am not going to wait for the right words, the choice phrase, the magic answer. I'm going to talk about it now, with my son, with you. Let's all talk with each other. And then let's walk our talk.

I Cry for Korea

Johnnie Lee Thomas, Sr.

I fought in the Korean War during the 1950s and I cried over the rape of their women and young girls, I cried over the murder of some men, women and children. I cried over the destruction of the cities, towns, villages, homes and people.

Now, forty years later I find myself crying for Korea again.

I was appalled at the barbaric way the Korean businesses were so unjustly taken away from them during the recent "L.A. War."

I didn't see a Korean among the officers that beat Rodney King, I didn't see a Korean attorney defending the officers that did beat Mr. King, and even if Koreans were on the King jury, they had to follow the law and instructions, and not feelings. Nevertheless, there's no justification for what was done to the Koreans during the "L.A. War." "I cry for Korea."

We blacks constantly cry for justice, recognition and equality. Well, who do you think will hear our cries how? Certainly not the Koreans and I don't blame them. On the other hand, I support them. If we're fools enough to destroy our own proper ties, then so be it. But what did the Koreans do to us? I'm so ashamed of the blacks that participated, those that stood by and let it happen, and for those that didn't or won't show kindness to those deserving people. "I cry for the Koreans."

KOREAN'S, I apologize for my black sisters and brothers.

Sustaining Fund Recipients

During the spring grant cycle the **Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County** awarded $2,534 to twelve local organizations and individuals. The largest grant of $500 went to *Sioux Feldman* so she could attend a school mediation conference. *Cascade Research Collective* received $300 to assist in the production of an educational slide show on electromagnetic fields. The *Hispanic Women's Network* received $209 to pay for incorporation fees required by the Internal Revenue Service. The *Olympia Association for Education of Young Children* received $205 to purchase training videos for their lending library. *Stonewall Youth* received $200 for office and printing supplies.

The *Lesbian Gay Film Festival* received $200 to offset the cost of keynote speaker, Marlon Riggat the 1992 festival. The Evergreen State College Foundation received $200 to help in producing a catalog. The Sustainable Community Round Table received $200 to help pay for the cost of a forum on environment and development. *Marcela Abadi* and *Sioux Feldman* received $200 to pay for costs involved with presenting conflict resolution workshops in Thurston County. *Fire Explorer Post 751* received $114 for equipment to support their youth program. The *Lesbian Gay Bisexual People's Publication Group* received $106 to pay for printing of one issue of their periodical. The Amtrak Depot Committee received $100 to go towards the cost of a water system at the depot.

The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County provides grant support for progressive, community-oriented projects in the county. The Sustaining Fund was formed in 1987 - in response to the lack of money available for developing and maintaining local social change activities. We support groups and individuals who are actively working to educate and involve this community in challenging and correcting the social, political and economic inequities around us.

Grants are awarded twice a year for such organizational needs as equipment, training, public outreach, start-up funding and special projects. We also provide matching funds with local governments. **The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County** is a non-profit foundation supporting community-building and social change projects in the South Sound area.

Bread and Roses Fund-raiser

"Let us not be remembered as the generation that saved the whales and saved the trees, but ignored our own kind."

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the seemingly hopeless state of our existence? I have. And in response I am making an effort to "think globally, and act locally" by organizing a year long, fund-raising, global bike tour. My objective is to work with Bread and Roses, a non-profit, community based organization, to generate donations and raise consciousness for all human kind. The challenge posed by the Biblical injunction "feed the hungry, clothe the naked and shelter the homeless" is not a simple task. I am challenging myself, and in doing so, I am challenging our community to become involved in making a difference. Bread and Roses is financially supported by donations from groups and individuals; we do not seek or accept government funding for operating expenses. Our organization's aim is to work to alleviate the debilitating effects of poverty, where possible, by providing direct services or advocacy. We also work with others to change those things which create poverty. We believe that people should be enlisted to work to solve their own problems in as much as they are able. Our services are without charge and not affiliated with any denomination. Through your donations, Bread and Roses will help continue to promote a more just and humane Olympia.

For more information please see the Bread and Roses booth at Super Saturday or contact Bread and Roses at 1320 8th Ave. S.E., Olympia, Wa. 98502. (206) 754-4085

For advertising information call
Barb Bellittiere at 943-1141
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Discounts available

Announcements

Jack or the Submission
The Future Is In Eggs
May30, June 5 and 6 at 8 pm
Studio 321, 321 N. Jefferson
Tickets: $5 Info: 357-3145
Blackwash Theatre Blackwash Theatre presents two naturalis-

The Cunning.
Monday, June 1 at 8 pm
Library Lobby, TESC
Tickets: $5 Info: 956-0191
Hall of the Woods Productions is proud to announce the return engagement of the The Cunning. An experimental, provocative, and original work, directed by Reuben Yancey, created and performed by the cast. This piece is particularly relevant regarding the up-coming presidential election.

The entire community is encouraged to attend.

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Along the Color Line

Looking At the Situation ofBlacks In Great Britain

Dr. Manning Marable

Last month, as several thousand fires erupted across Los Angeles, I visited England and spoke to black communities in Manchester, Nottingham, and several areas in London. Blacks in England were fascinated with the struggles of African-American people, and wanted to learn more about the recent urban uprisings. But during my visit, I learned that England's black community has a whole range of problems and challenges meriting greater awareness and interest by blacks on this side of the Atlantic.

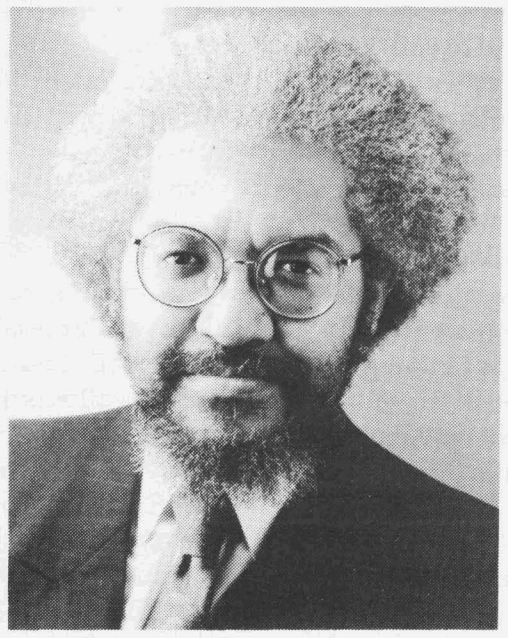
The nonwhite population of England is nearly four and one half million, located disproportionately in working class neighborhoods of Liverpool, London and other cities. The largest percentage of "Blacks" are actually people with Asian ethnic backgrounds. Over one and one half million blacks trace their heritage from the Caribbean or Africa. Although half of all blacks in Britain were born there, virtually all are viewed as recent or temporary migrants. They experience discrimination in employment, and are over represented in prisons and criminal justice system. Although several blacks have been elected to the British Parliament, the level of their political influence is much smaller than their actual numbers within the society.

Talking with dozens of blacks across the country, several key topics of concern repeatedly were expressed. The first was the question of identity. "Are we black or are we British?", one teenaged black girl asked at a community meeting in North London. "You can see the racism in their faces", she continued painfully. One Guyanese woman who worked in a department store explained that it was the store's unofficial policy to shadow all black customers, watching out for possible shoplifting. "Whites waiting to be served are even pushed out of the way," she observed, "in order to wait on black customers quickly, and thus remove them from the store!"

As in the United States, the white power system repeated attempts to divide Afro-Caribbean, Asian and African people from each other. In Nottingham, oat one intense encounter with the black community, an Asian social worker expressed her frustration with the bickering between nonwhites. "We are manipulated against each other," she declared. "I go into the Asian community and racism towards blacks makes me sick... Some Indians actually believe they are slightly better off economically", and therefore should align themselves with conservative whites.

A Black attorney from Nottingham explained: "Black people are afraid of discovering the pain within themselves, created by racism. We need a space for healing one another."

Because of their ambiguity about their cultural and political identity, many black Britons have engaged in interracial relationships. About one-third of all black men are married or are involved in a sexual relationship with a white woman, a much higher percentage than in the U.S. There is also a growing population of "mixed-raced" children, raised by white mothers, who have at best a fragmented ethnic and racial identity. Many see themselves basically as British in language, culture and values, and their half-Caribbean ancestry is secondary.



But in response to interracial contacts, many blacks are reasserting their links to their Afro-Asian heritage and cultures. "Saturday schools" are being established by black parents in dozens of cities across the country. Typically, these informal schools have an Afrocentric curriculum, providing young blacks with lessons from black history, music, literature, and politics. Black parents explained to me that they were motivated by the examples of self-hatred and internalized racism which they had found within their own children. One teacher described how some of her black elementary school had drawn pictures of themselves "with straight blond hair", to "make themselves more beautiful." Black children "are constantly told that they are stupid." An articulate, black attorney from Nottingham, who had chaired my visit to that city, explained: "Black people are afraid of discovering the pain within themselves, created by racism. We need a space for healing one another."

Speaking on the subject of Malcolm X in London's black community of Brixton, I encountered more than six hundred black people, mostly young adults eager to learn about black protest. As one young man explained to me, the examples of both Malcolm and the revolt in Los Angeles are directly relevant to blacks in Britain. "We are also part of the worldwide struggle against racial and class oppression," he asserted. "Like our sisters and brothers in America, we're ready to 'fight the power'."

Dr Marable is Professor of Political Science and History, University of Colorado. "Along the Color Lin" is published by over 250 newspapers worldwide, and a radio version of the series is broadcast by more than 50 radio stations across North America.

State Investment Board Update

Evelyn Montague

After almost a year of our not monitoring the State Investment Board, but aware as many of us are, that there have been rather summary dismissals of some of the administrators in the past few months, Meta attended the May meeting and was surprised and pleased with the changes in attitude and personnel. The board has dropped some of its advisors and hired new ones. While not exactly rushing to invest in low income housing, or other such meaningful social improvement projects, they are now encouraging public participation, especially by employees and retirees of the state, whose interests are most closely linked to their activities. Significantly, the Board will now be meeting alternately in Olympia and Seattle

In addition, Meta has been talking with various officials regarding revenue sources that are legally due but are not being paid - - - huge sums by large corporations, and she is finding some state and federal officials who are interested in helping her to obtain the information and rectify the negligence. More later.

Evelyn is a member of TCRC.

Katy Murray MSW, CCDCIII

Therapy ◆ Consultation ◆ Training

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THE HOMELESS

IF SOME ONE NEEDS HELP AND YOU'RE THERE
SHOW THEM THAT YOU CARE
I'M TALKING ABOUT A PERSON WITH NO HOME
THEY ARE OUT THERE AND VERY MUCH ALONE
I SEE HOMELESS PEOPLE EVERY DAY
AND I HAVE WONDERED WHERE THEY STAY
I WANTED TO SEE HOW THEY LIVED
THEY KEEP THEIR HOMES WELL HID
I'VE SEEN THEM LYING UNDER THE TREES
AND OTHERS UNDER OLD CANOPIES
IN OLD CARS
AND BEHIND THE BARS
AND I'VE EVEN SEEN THEM SLEEPING ON THE SIDEWALK
AND I CAN'T BELIEVE THE WAY PEOPLE TALK
THERE ARE A LOT OF PLACES THEY GO
THROUGH ALL KINDS OF WEATHER, RAIN OR SNOW
THEY HAVE CLOTHES THAT ARE TORN
AND WHAT ABOUT THE MOTHERS WITH THEIR UNBORN
IT'S THE CHILDREN I CARE MOST ABOUT
BECAUSE I KNOW THEY HAVE TO DO WITHOUT
TO ME THIS IS ABUSE TO MANKIND
AND IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE UP ITS MIND
THEY COULD GIVE THESE PEOPLE A HOME
YET THEY DON'T CARE, THEY JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE
HAVE YOU EVER SLEPT OUT IN THE COLD?
I'VE SEEN THIS WITH BOTH THE YOUNG AND THE OLD
I'VE SEEN THEM GO WITHOUT FOOD FOR DAYS
AND I SAID TO MYSELF, I'M AMAZED
IS THIS THE WAY GOD WANTED US TO BE?
NO, I'M SURE THIS IS NOT WHAT HE WANTS TO SEE
SO OPEN YOUR HEART
AND GIVE THEM A START
YOU WILL BE REWARDED IN THE END
ALSO, YOU WILL HAVE GAINED A NEW FRIEND

CATHY DURRETT

(No Justice, continued)

was incoherent with rage -- angrier than I've been since the Emperor Reagan was elected. But unlike others, I didn't ask how or why such a verdict could be returned because I know America and have heard of Simi Valley.

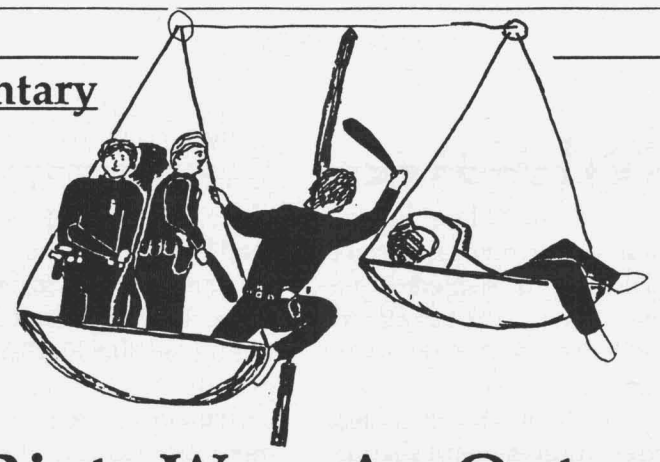
As the riots unfolded and the liberals howled in righteous indignation, I stayed in seclusion and watched the news. I heard Rodney's plea for reconciliation, and King George whine about the verdict as he sent battalions of combat troops and commando units into Los Angeles to face untrained civilians. I saw Reginald Denny beaten in the street and troops with grenade launchers on their rifles at the ready. I saw officials and experts and pundits, most of whom decried the rioters without addressing their causes, thus adding misinformation. The Secretary of State told me the war against Iraq was about jobs, but there are precious few jobs in South-Central L.A., and not a lot of opportunity for education to get them. General Motors is taking 74,000 jobs out of the country over the next three years. Some of the vehicles used by troops in L.A. were still painted dun-yellow, desert camouflage, manned by veterans.

Politicians were covering their useless asses and laying blame. So-called black "leaders" meant well, but were out of touch with real life out here in the street. When was the last time *they* had to go to the food bank?

My few real white friends expressed their horror and sympathy sincerely, asking: What can we do? I replied, Thank you. I love you. But now it's *your* time to shine. VOTE. Agitate, demonstrate, remonstrate. Write, talk, picket, sit in, speak out. I'll be backstage to help, but I may not be out there with you because it's just too dangerous, my voice isn't heard anyway; the system doesn't work for me and doesn't want to. I may even hurt the cause by being there. Yes, we people of color took the lead in the '60s and '70s, and we thought we got something done. Now white people need to take the lead because their voices are the only ones with a hope of being recognized. Moreover, when The Man is through with us, he'll come after them -- he's already more openly oppressing poor and working-class whites, as shown by the Caterpillar strike. All of you earnest young white liberals who regret missing the '60s, here's your chance.

I hear a lot of whining these days from people who say they're sick and tired of the whole process, and want a real alternative candidate for president. Last year we started with 11 people, and people have made their choices. Well, the nearest thing we have to an alternative is Jerry Brown, but people support H. Ross Perot instead. Why? Perot is just another wealthy WASP male, and he's already lying to us even though he isn't an official candidate yet.

Commentary



L.A. Riots Were An Outcome Of An Obvious Situation

Joel Montague

Don't tell me we didn't know.

Historian M.I. Rostovtzev, in his analysis of the decline of the Roman Empire, points to: A rigid social class structure, political riots and factional strife, the "conglomeration of races" and problems of cultural assimilation. In the later Empire, he maintains that there was a "weakening of mental fiber by the predominance of rhetoric over concrete action." He concluded that from this whole complex of conditions the two attitudes of mind that wrote the doom of Rome were, "apathy in the rich and discontent among the poor."

Some say that we are now on the downhill slope. Lewis Lapham unmasked the "Imperial Presidency." Donald Barlett and James Steele explain how Washington and Wall Street conspired to favor the powerful and influential at the expense of everyone else. Barbara Ehrenreicht looks a he middle class as it disappears. Sociologist William . Q. Wilson pleads the case of "The Truly Needy" -- the black underclass. Kevin Phillips shows what happened to be distribution of wealth in the aftermath of the Reagan administration, and Hacker saw "Two nations: black and white, and race conflict in the offing.

These and many other studies; government statistics and public opinion polls all revealed the unstable chemistry which awaited a jolt, a shock, a cause to explode.

I feel the Root of The L.A. RIOTS IS simple; Obviously a Result of the Civil Rights Movement and the Reforms of the 60's ...
... the 1860's

We knew it was there. It was unpleasant, disturbing. We tried not to look. Our knowledge was academic, once removed, impersonal outside our daily routine, far from our style of life.

It reminds me of the picture of Manchester, drawn by Frederick Engels in 1844. "The town itself is peculiarly built so that a person may live in it for years, and go in and out daily without coming into contact with a working-peoples quarter or even with workers, that is, so long as he confines himself to his business or to pleasure walks. This arises chiefly from the fact that by unconscious, tacit agreement, as well as with outspoken conscious-determination, the working-people's quarters are sharply separated from the sections of the city reserved for the middle class.... Manchester contains, at its heart, a rather extended commercial district.... This district is cut through by certain main thoroughfares upon which the vast traffic concentrates and in which the ground level is lined with brilliant shops.. . .working people's quarters, stretching like a girdle ... around the commercial district. Outside, beyond this girdle, lives the upper and middle bourgeoisie, the middle bourgeoisie in regularly laid-out streets....the upper bourgeoisie in remoter villas with gardens in Chorlton and Ardwick, or on the breezy heights of Cheetham Hill ,... And the finest part of this arrangement is this; that the members of this monied aristocracy can take the shortest road through the middle of all the laboring districts to their places of business, without ever seeing that they are in the midst of the grimy misery that lurks to the right and to the left."

But there comes a time in both Manchester and Los Angeles when this unsavory population can no longer be passed by, humiliated or harassed. An explosion occurs. Violence demands attention. But how soon will it be before a "vast traffic" resumes "going to their places of business without ever seeing... "

Dr. Montague, a retired professor of Sociaology from WSU living in Olympia. This article iisreprinted from this month's issue of the Senior News.

And as I write this I think of TESC Security's "need" to be a commissioned police unit, complete with guns. I spoke directly to the Trustees in opposition, as did many people, especially a very courageous woman named Lana Brewster. Not only safety, but Evergreen's traditional right of self-determination is at stake. If the Board disregards the passionate opposition of the Evergreen community and commissions an armed police force, I cannot help but think that many young middle-class whites will get a taste of what it's like to be poor, or lesbian/gay, or disabled, or a person of color; and I cannot help but wonder if that would be such a bad thing.

Jerome Johnson is the host of Up Front, Wednesdays at 1 pm on KAOS. Jerome is a member of the WIP editorial board, but the opinions expressed in his article are his own. They do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the WIP editorial board.

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

General Membership Meeting

June 13th, 12:30 pm

First Christian Church
Seventh & Franklin
Downtown Olympia

Join The ThurstonCountyRainbowCoalition

Yes, I'm interested in joining the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition
- ❑ Enclosed is: $25; $10 low-income.
- ❑ Yes, I want to be involved in Rainbow activities. Give me a call.

(name) _____

(address) _____

(city) _____ (state) _____ (zip) _____

(work phone) _____ (home phone) _____

(issues of interest):

TC R C, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507. For information call 459-3625 or 456-4773.

Olympia City Council
Frustrated By Limited Power

Mark Foutch
Olympia City Council Member

Well, It's the morning after the night before, when the Olympia City Council voted to dismiss the appeals of the Friends of the Westside Center and the Center lessees and to allow the Jack-In-The-Box building permit application to move forward with some modifications to the parking plan. These changes will restore the present wide pedestrian access ways to the north building and require better security lighting and monitoring and landscaping of the expanded parking area in back of the store.

Both during and after the meeting, every Council member expressed frustration over our lack of authority in this case. We granted "standing" to the Friends and the lessees, although that legal status for one or both was contested by some. We heard testimony on issues that we were told were not germane because they were already past their appeal dates--traffic impacts, internal circulation patterns, etc. Part of the reason we leaned so far this way is that none of us, I think, wanted to see another auto-oriented fast-food restaurant along Harrison. Yet we found ourselves constricted by Washington law and our own laws and rules.

As I pointed out last month, the law presumes an owner's right to develop property subject only to specific restrictions in the public interest such as zoning, environmental protection suitable for that area, and a certain amount of marginal leverage in areas such as aesthetics, e.g., design review. Because the U.S. Constitution prohibits ex-post-facto laws (government creating a crime to get you for doing something that wasn't criminal when you did it, for example) our authority is at the time of application. No matter what we think of fast food restaurants (or any other personal preference) the law must be applied equally.

After the vote I spoke with some of the Friends in the back of the Council chambers. I told them how amazed I had been that they had been able to find so many plausible "handholds" on an issue that had seemed at the start to be a "slamdunk" for Foodmaker, Inc. Their tenacious pursuit of this appeal was truly remarkable and a credit to their dedication. In addition, the lessees" attorney, Jim Davenport, raised a legitimate issue with his contention that project appeal deadlines shouldn't be "piecemeal," but a single appeal period should be available when all pre-permitting activities are completed. As Greg Falxa pointed out to me, it's hard for a lay person to appeal each one of those incremental actions when you don't know they're happening. (Jackie Boettcher and I talked about this after the meeting; she said are improving our signage for such projects so that those who pass the site will notice a large, permanent sign that can't blow away or be torn down. It will describe the proposed project and give a contact for more information. It's a step.)

This issue of a consolidated appeal period is worth looking at, and when our new Community Planning and Development department is formed and the new director is selected, it's one of the issues that will be explored. It does have its downside, but it's sure worth a look.

But the current rules were in place for this project, and we could not legally change them after the fact. (And I seriously doubt that the two "extraneous" issues--traffic impacts and internal circulation patterns--could have been successfully challenged even if admitted for consideration.)

But sometimes [the local government] runs into its own legal limitations or the results of its lack of foresight many years before.

But all these potential "fixes" are for the future. Where were we last night? Aside from tinkering at the margins of the parking plan, we were left with the option of passing a crowd-pleasing and self-satisfying motion to deny the application on some vague grounds of "vision" or "values" (i.e., our personal preferences) that were never among the specific hurdles set before this or any other applicant, this in the face of testimony from our own professional staff and legal counsel that the project met all city standards.

If I were counsel for the applicant, I'd then have asked for a flat fee rather than "billable hours" when I took that case to Superior Court, because with such incontrovertible evidence of arbitrary and prejudicial conduct by the City Council the case would be in and out in 10 minutes. Furthermore, I wouldn't be surprised if the City would have been the subject of a suit for civil damages for the same reason. And JIB would have gone in, probably without the pedestrian entrances preserved and improvements we specified to the rear parking area.

This morning I ran into Mayor Skramstad at an awards meeting for Public Works employees, and we went over to the Spar afterwards. He expressed dissatisfaction with our inability to influence the course of events last night more than we had done. He felt that the "piecemeal" issue needed to be explored, and he agreed with KGY commentator Bob McLeod's comment to him that, in many ways, "We have a vision, but we don't have a way to get there."

I mentioned to him that this was due in part to the way we keep diverting our Planning Commission and staff to "put out fires" or (to be fair) take advantage of opportunities without funding additional staff positions or hours to continue the basic and very important work we set them on at the beginning of each year. This has been very frustrating to our talented and dedicated volunteer Planning Commission members and I expect it will be addressed in our budget deliberations this year.

Where we've had the authority, this and recent Olympia Councils have been willing to take a lot of heat to move toward a new vision for the community. We've made developers angry with environmental restrictions, we've made some neighborhoods angry with a farsighted decision on connecting streets, we've made anti-tax folks angry with our continued pursuit of rejected bond issues for parks, recreation facilities and open space. We may make some other folks mad if staff and Council find that the anti-hate crimes ordinance I've proposed is needed here, and we're insisting on the highest standards of professional conduct self-discipline and integrity from our police department. We want to do a better job of providing healthy activities for our younger and older populations and better social services for those in need. And we're still playing an expensive game of "catchup" in our vital infrastructure after decades of "patchup" to keep taxes and fees down--an for our trouble we get the blame for raising the taxes and fees.

I've lived in many places in this country and around the world, and frankly I'm astounded at the commitment of vision, energy, and dollars this small community of 33,000 people has made to its citizens' quality of life. No matter how frustrated we feel over individual issues, this is a fine place to live and work. Government is open and responsive to the people's needs and desires. But sometimes it runs into its own legal limitations or the results of its lack of foresight many years before.

Last night was one of those times. We just didn't have the horses, and we'll be reminded of that for years every time we pass the corner of Division and Harrison. We'll be left with the dubious satisfaction that, "It could have been worse.

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard on this project. And thanks for letting me take up so much space in *WIP*.

Friends of the Westside Center Against Jack

Alan Brisley

On May 19 Olympia city council voted six to one in favor of Jack in the Box and against the community. What does this mean? What is to be learned from the fight to save the Westside Center that has been going on over the last six months?

Back in November westside residents became alerted to the proposed Jack in the Box and to the other elements of what appeared to be a plan by the Westside Center's California owner Magnus Verbrugge to push out small local businesses and replace them with national chain stores. A few residents got together and called a public meeting to which sixty people showed up. We formed the Friends of the Westside Center and since that first meeting hundreds of people have attended meetings, gone to hearings, gathered signatures, done research, written articles and organized demonstrations to save our only neighborhood oriented retail center on the westside. Our efforts have resulted in some success. The management of the center is no longer in Harmon Verbrugge's hands. Harmon was the one behind the Tacoma Place strip mall bankruptcy (January WIP) and was responsible for lease manipulations, rental increases etc. prior to the loss of Olympic Drug, Word of Mouth Books, Graphia, and a number of other businesses from the Westside Center. The center is now being managed by Hodges Reality for California landlord Magnus Verbrugge. The Crafts Mall was brought in and the Asterisk got a new owner and lease. Even though council voted against a development freeze on the westside the community sent a message to Verbrugge that we are watching and ready and able to act against his plans.

Council had all . . .they needed to stand with the community and against Jack in the Box. . . Watching this process has made me wonder who is running the show at city hall.

During this period city staff and city council have consistently told us that we could not talk about Jack in the Box, that Jack was "vested", that we were too late, that there was nothing we could do. Rules at hearings seemed to be consistently set up to constrain our testimony within narrow legalistic boundaries which did not address our most vital concerns. The city council meeting on May 19 was no exception. City manager, Dick Cushing, set the boundaries of the discussion. He limited what city council could consider to technical legal points concerning the number of parking spaces in Foodmaker's proposed parking plan and council accepted these constraints.

The Friends of the Westside Center's aim in appealing the staff's decision on the parking plan was to get the Jack in the Box question in front of city council to give them an opportunity to act. Our factual and legal arguments against the parking plan showed that it is based upon trying to squeeze a 650 car/day drive-through facility plus 41 new parking spaces into a space that they cannot fit and a parking lot that is already non-conforming to code. The parking plan had already gone through lengthy and unsuccessful negotiations with business tenants of the Westside Center. The plan was based on mis-measurements and incorrect counts of parking stalls. It narrowed drive lanes, "created" new parking by pushing existing parking spaces behind buildings (out of sight of the proposed Jack in the Box), increased the number of compact stalls and narrowed and eliminated pedestrian ac-

(Continued next page)

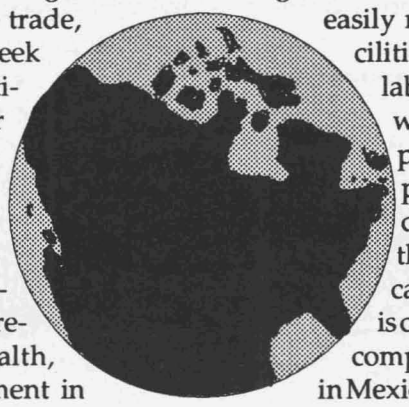
A Case Against the North American Free Trade Area

Drifting Towards Autarchy

T.J. Johnson

The proposal to liberalize trade between the United State, Canada, and Mexico through the creation of a North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) comes at a unique juncture in the evolution of the world's political economy. The unprecedented restructuring of the global economy which has taken place in recent years, a process detailed by Robert Reich in *The Work of Nations* has resulted in new patterns of production and trade. The newfound mobility of capital has given rise to a network of global production webs, which have increasingly replaced traditional nation-based corporations and industries as the basis for production and trade. For the first time in history, production--and consumption--are truly international. Yet this new international economic order, based as it is on competitive neoclassical economic models and Liberal ideology, has done little if anything to further the cause of distributive justice, or improve the living conditions for a majority of the world's people. Indeed, what we have seen is a further concentration of wealth and power into the hands of an elite minority and a corresponding decline in the ability of citizens and their elected national governments to curb the most egregious excesses of the powerful capital elites.

The proposed NAFTA sees to further formalize this arrangement. Under the guise of free trade, NAFTA proponents seek to create a new continental economic order founded on unlimited mobility of capital, which they claim will result in more efficient use of productive resources and creation of greater wealth, with a net enhancement in the quality of life for the people of all three countries. However, many people, including myself, question these assertions and the assumptions on which they are based, and believe the actual results will be a further weakening of the power of organized labor, increased degradation of the natural environment, and a significantly weakened democratic process.



For decades, owners of capital have relied on the threat of free trade as a means of exploiting the fear of working Americans *vis a vis* the securing of their jobs. Dan Leahy of the Evergreen Labor Center refers to this threat as "the rod" which U.S. captialists use to discipline workers and suppress demands for wage increases and improvements in the quality of the workplace environment. NAFTA would further strengthen the hand of U.S. capital interests in resisting the demands of organized labor by allowing the owners of capital to more easily relocate production facilities to those areas where labor organization is the weakest, and labor inputs into the production process most economically attractive. Noting that the average American manufacturing wage is currently $15.33 an hour, compared to $2.03 an hour in Mexico, it pushes the bounds of the imagination to visualize how NAFTA could benefit American labor. Thus, claims of a significant increase in the number of American jobs as the result of NAFTA, such as those advanced by Hufbauer and Schott, are dubious at best. It is important to note that while Hufbauer and Schott claim NAFTA will further weaken the ability of organized labor to negotiate with U.S. capitalists on the behalf of American workers. For this reason alone, NAFTA should be rejected.

. . . owners of capital have relied on . . . exploiting the fear of working Americans* vis a vis *the securing of their jobs.

Another certainly about NAFTA is that, if approved, there will be severe negative impacts on the environment in all countries. In the U.S. and Canada, industries will now be forced to compete with Mexican facilities which operate under significantly more lax environmental laws, so that these industries might remain "competitive" with their Mexican counterparts. In addition, many U.S. and Canadian industries might simply choose to relocate to Mexico, which is noted for weak enforcement of the few environmental protection statutes which it does possess.

Proponents of NAFTA point to the Maquiladoras program as an example of the type of prosperity which will be made possible by a free trade accord. Yet, by most accounts the Maquiladoras program has been an environmental disaster. Maquiladora industries have contaminated large areas of both surface water and underground aquifers with a variety of toxic, hazardous, and radioactive wastes; they have also fouled the air over surrounding areas with emission containing sulfur and nitrogen dioxides, which contribute to acidic precipitation, and carbon dioxides, which contribute to acidic precipitation, and carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas which contributes to global warming.

In light of the serious environmental costs associated with U.S. and Canadian development, a final, and more troubling issue must be confronted in light of NAFTA projections for rapid development of Mexico: to what extent should Mexican development be based on the U.S. and Canadian models? During its developmental process, the United States has destroyed over 75% of native forests, covered much of its most productive farmland with asphalt, irrevocably contaminated once pristine water resources, condemned numerous species to extinction, and poisoned whole regions with radioactive materials, rendering them uninhabitable for thousands of years. Canada has proceeded down the same path, albeit at a slower pace. Thus, we must ask whether NAFTA's goal of promoting Mexican development based on the consumer-driven resource consumptive model of its northern neighbors will, in the end, benefit Mexico or whether the result will be wholesale destruction of its precious natural ecosystems and the wild beauty with which many Mexicans identify their national heritage.

The NAFTA accord could, and should, be rejected on either of the grounds discussed above. But a final, and even more ominous reason can be advanced for rejection of NAFTA: it is an inherently undemocratic document. By creating a new economic order based on the mobility of capital and relegating decision making and conflict resolution issues as it does to a select group of self-appointed "experts", NAFTA succeeds in removing popular participation and citizen oversight from the process of national economic decision making. Thus, the already significantly disempowered majorities in each country will lose what little ability they still possess to affect the decisions.

T. J. Johnson is in TESC's Masters of Environmental Science program.

(Westside, continued)

cess to the stores from the parking lot. The plan eliminates four entrances to the parking lot and routes all of the drive-through traffic *through* the center's parking lot in a complicated figure-eight pattern. The plan clearly contradicts the city's Urban Design Vision and Goals statement, it's stated number one priority for 1992. Its a bad plan: its wrong and it won't work.

Jim Davenport, the attorney representing the Westside Lessees Association gave city council legal justification for taking the process back to site plan review. He argued that the "piecemeal" process through which a project like this is approved one element at a time means that the final decision on the last elements of the site plan is the appropriate time to *appeal the site plan as a whole*. Otherwise, as has been the case with Jack in the Box, the project is fundamentally approved before there is an overall plan and at each step forward elements can be compromised and changed altering the final project. The whole site plan cannot be up for review before it is really a plan.

Council had all of the arguments, legal and otherwise, that they needed to stand with the community and against Jack in the Box. But to do so would have meant going against the legal advice of city attorney, Mark Erickson, and taking a stand against the staff's position on the "Jack" proposal. Watching this process through several city council meetings and hearings has made me wonder who is running the show at city hall. We appear to have a council which pleads legal helplessness and follows along behind their professional staff with a big rubber stamp.

Nina Carter was the only one with the courage to move that the process be sent back to the site plan review committee on the basis of Davenport's argument. The other council members said nothing or deferred responsibility to Mark Erickson, asking questions like, "Can we do this?" and "What can we do?" Council voted six to one to dismiss both the tenants and the "Friends'" appeals and require a few modifications to the parking plan which will simply mean more parking spaces moved into the alley behind the shopping center. But the plan will fit the letter of the law.

To me it is clear how council could and should have acted. While Rex Derr and Dave Skramstad's positions were predictable, Holly Gadbaw, Mary Lux, Sandra Romero and Mark Foutch all ran for council on the basis of commitments to values of community, environmental and social justice. Why didn't they stand behind Nina Carter when she took the risk of standing up for what she knew was right? Nothing significant can be accomplished without risks. A councilmember was heard to say after the meeting that Mark Erickson's job is to "keep us out of trouble." By keeping themselves out of trouble, council has passed on irreversible trouble to the community in the form of parking gridlock and an unwanted fast food drive-through.

The council has missed the opportunity to do something really meaningful that could have consolidated community support behind them. If they had set the precedent of opening the process up back to the site plan review stage they could have begun to counter the way "vesting" works in this state to railroad developments that are unwanted by neighborhoods and communities. A legal battle would probably have ensued. It would be controversial and many people in the community would have rallied in support of council. It would have put the council and the community on the same side of the fence and Foodmaker Inc. on the outside where they belong.

Instead, Foodmaker Inc., city council and city staff are on the inside and citizens and neighbors are on the outside. The fundamental power imbalance that exists within the structure of our city government which rewards money and punishes the community was reinforced. Council's expressions of good will and community vision do us no good unless they will also act on them. City council must move beyond this "thanks for your opinion, there's nothing we can do, maybe next time" facade of democracy.

The positive changes that have occurred in this fight have all come directly from the activism of neighborhood people. What this means is that we must continue to organize better on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis and keep on learning how to mobilize and assert our power and our vision for a liveable community. We also need to elect council members who will take risks and work for structural changes which will give ordinary people real power to make decisions about the future of their neighborhoods. And we must not give up just because our government failed to stand behind us. As long as there is no Jack in the Box at the Westside Center, there is no Jack in the Box.

Alan is a friend of the Westside, where he has lived for 10 years.

A Talk With John Taylor Gatto

Matt Love

John Taylor Gatto will be the keynote speaker at Evergreen's graduation this year. Gatto was elected Teacher of the Year for New York City and New York state in 1991. He has retired from 25 years of teaching to promote "a radical transformation of state school."

The Prussian system is the reason we have class periods, and the reason we have units; it's the reason we fragment things into tiny student-proof, and teacher-proof segments.

According to the introductory notes to his 1992 book, Dumbing Us Down; The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling, between schooling and television, our children have precious little time to learn for themselves about the community they live in, or the lives they might lead. Instead, they are schooled to merely obey orders and become smoothly functioning cogs in the industrial machine."

In his 26 years of teaching, John Gatto has found that independent study, community service, large doses of solitude and a thousand different apprenticeships with adults of all walks of life are the key to helping children break the thrall of our conforming society. For the sake of our children and our communities, Gatto urges all of us to get schools out to the way and find ways to re-engage children and families in actively controlling our culture, economy and society."

In addition to speaking at Evergreen's graduation, he will speak to the public in the Capital High School auditorium,. Monday, June 8th at 7:00 pm. The school is located at 2707 West Conger Street, off Cooper Point Road on the Westside. The June 8th speech is presented by the Duniway School Forum. The Forum is establishing a school to open in September of this year, offering an alternative to public education. For more information, contact Chris Synodis and Nancy Sullivan at 754-9330.

Love: My own perception of public school is that it's role is more indoctrination than education.

Gatto: It is, and in fact your perception, if you rolled the calender back to 1900, 1910, would have been openly discussed and agreed upon, that the roll of government school is indoctrination. The idea originates in early 19th century Prussia, and it becomes a real national obsession here.

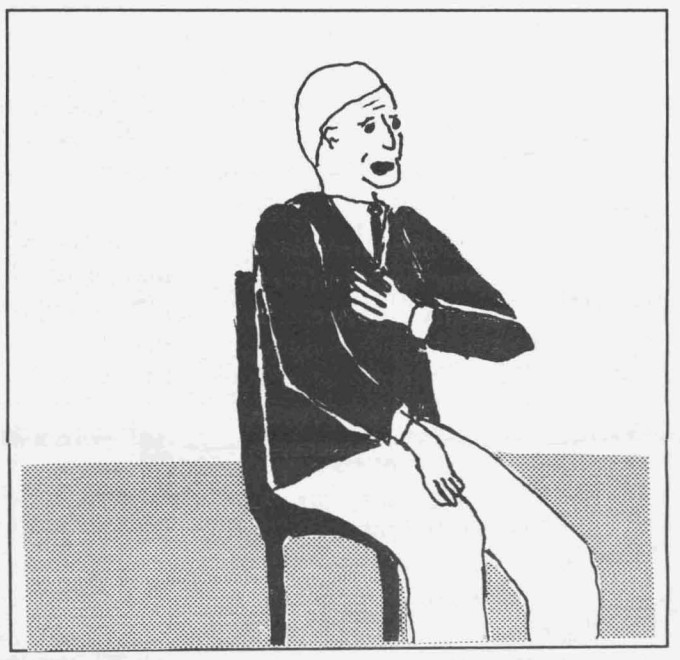
Horace Mann was addicted to the Prussian system. He visited there, came back; dozens of books were written. Of course they were read by the movers and shakers, and everyone agreed that the Prussian system that indoctrinated it's citizens was the proper model for an America that would no longer be homogeneous, because immigration was going to destroy that. They saw it as necessary, as a matter of self defence. I suppose also that the better people who did this thought that it was best for the incoming masses, too.

The Prussian system is the reason we have class periods, and the reason we have units; it's the reason we fragment things into tiny student-proof, and teacher-proof segments. Its exactly the way the American factory workplace segmented jobs, so that they became independent of the craftsman. In fact, that term couldn't be used any longer. They were just line workers, and if they all dropped dead, they could be replaced tomorrow, and their replacements trained in 15 minutes.

Over the short run that produces measurable, instrumental results. What it does is to emotionally starve the individual to such a degree that I think you get a form of insanity. You get a crippled human being who doesn't uncripple outside of that pressure. I think the deformation is life long, even thought there are some steps you can take to ameliorate the effects.

Love: I find that school prepared me very well for my job in state government, where I'm given standardized evaluations, take tests that give me an opportunity to advance to higher positions, so it's very much like school.

Gatto: I think that's very perceptive. State jobs, to some great extent, aren't in fact jobs at all. They reflect a theory, once again, that was current in the early 19th century, and is even more current today. This theory holds that one of the main functions of government is to blot out the potentially revolutionary possibilities of unemployed males. According to how many jobs the private economy seems to be able to provide, the governments role is to make up the difference, so that the critical mass is never reached. Again, this is not John Gatto's speculation, this has been common currency in graduate schools of economics for a hundred years. And if you read public policy, these things are talked about openly. They just never percolate into the general imagination, which is a shame, because then many of the anomalies that drive us crazy would at least be clear. We could say "it's a stupid idea," rather than just feeling that we're manipulated, jerked around.



Love: As far as soaking up revolutionary potential, I think it certainly worked on me.

Gatto: I think that people are regularly more than any systematic theory allows them to be. As a consequence, we have no more Soviet Union; I think that should be an object lesson to the keepers of schools, for example.

Love: I find that I feel like my real life takes place outside of the workplace, just as I felt like my real life took place outside of school.

Gatto: You're probably joined by the vast majority of the population. Yes, our real lives take place in private time, although there is less and less private time for that to happen. In particular, our country has been frantically committed to constant non-stop movement, and I think there was reason for that, too. We were a homeless population from the beginning. Even the prosperous classes were in exile. For all intents and purposes, they had been evicted from their homeland. We came to someone else's land, and the first thing we had to do was eliminate the owners. Then we had competition from the French; they had to be eliminated. There wasn't really time to set about the preparations out of which good lives grow; loyalties to family, friends, neighborhoods, hills, and water. None of these things are interchangeable. Because it required moving people at breakneck speed, our system said they were replaceable, and each replacement was an improvement; "trading up," in modern parlance. It works on paper, but emotionally it starves the people who do it, to death.

Love: Clearly, we need people with creative solutions, not just automatons to solve these kinds of problems.

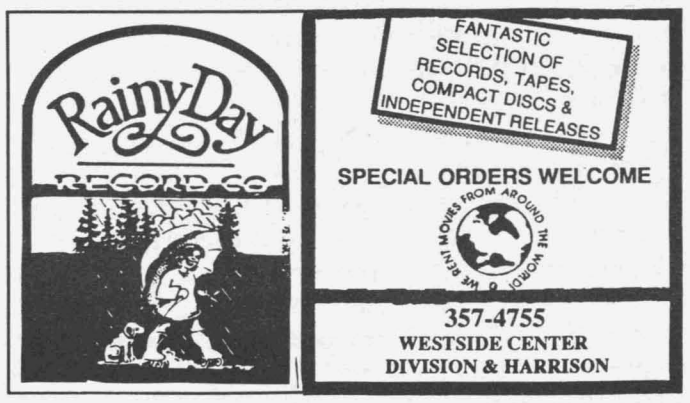
Gatto: You know, what's wrong with that, Matt, is we've had the creative solutions we need for a very long time. If we tackle our problems as through they were engineering problems, as though when kids don't read, we need to discover a way to help kids read, when that way was discovered, I don't know, 10,000 years ago, whenever there was print, people knew how to teach kids to read. If we approached them as engineering problems, we're going to run into the same mystery that's lead seven national school reform efforts into finding the solution as more school and more money for the school establishment. There's a reason these things happen, and I don't think the reasons are that a better way isn't known.

It depends on a vision of what a good life is, or what a proper life is, and if, at the top, you don't share the vision of the working man and woman, you're going to impose a system that realizes your own vision. The vision that's being realized right now is awful. I don't mean to suggest that it's sinister. It's simply the interests of one group against another group.

Think of the way our economy functions in the country. Without a mathematical exercise called market research, it would be a vastly different economy. A color used in dyeing cloth, or a cut of cloth, or a television that hasn't been subjected beforehand to this mathematical exercise, so we have to have a population that's by and large a predictable population, that doesn't vary much in it's allowable behavior. Now, you can say that's the way people are anyway, but if you said that, you'd have a very hard time explaining the first 200 years of United States history.

Or you could say that a number of systems are in place that make people more or less alike, that control behavior. The major of those systems is schooling. And it gives us exactly the kind of population we need to sustain the kind of economy we have. So the question becomes, "is this the best kind of economy for people?" where men and women sit in front of television screens all day long and punch buttons. Or move paper from one side of the desk to another.

(continued next page)



(Gotta, continued)

Love: I can't remember when my daughter Kelsie started reading, or how she learned. We just read to her as soon as there was any language development at all...

Gatto: Great.

Love: ...and within a year or two, she was reading.

Gatto: That's how it's done. That's the great secret, and I can't believe that secret wasn't discovered at the beginning when there was anything to read. That's how my mother taught me to read.

Love: I don't remember learning. I knew how to read long before I got into school.

Gatto: You learn to read the same way you learn to walk and talk, except if a group preempts the reading instruction, steps in, and says "it won't be done this way," and if it isn't done this way, remediation is in order, and if remediation doesn't work, special education is in order. You now have a 35-40 billion dollar a year education industry. The fact that

Hooked on Phonics, which is as primitive a program as could exist, has earned a quarter of a billion dollars in two years, is staggering. Its some evidence of exactly how easy it is to read. Of course, that's something schools couldn't possibly tell you; because otherwise, how do you justify 12 years? How do you deal with that politically? Can you think of a state legislature who would acknowledge what's as obvious as two and two making four?

Love: It seems to me that for purposes of instruction, we don't need to know much about the mechanisms by which we learn.

Gatto: Beautiful. And what you've just said is that teacher's certification is itself a kind of nonsense. It's no different than Henry the Eighth or Queen Elizabeth selling the right to hunt for whales. Licensing it, then nobody else could do that. The interesting irony is that none of the great private schools in the United States would dream of hiring a certified teacher; deducing, or hypothesizing, that by going through the certification process, which takes years, you've already identified yourself as somebody that they don't want to associate with their clientele. I just think that's fascinating. Now, there may be one or two that have talked their way in, but by-and-large you don't find certified teachers where all the presidents' kids go.

Love: It seems like its a very precise, developed skill to manage and control a room full of restless people.

Gatto: Oh, yes. But why would you want to do that? That's the point; that's a skill that's useful inside the parameters of a system that's dysfunctional. You're absolutely right. The way you do it, let me tell you because I'm certainly as good as anyone alive at doing that; you do that largely by humiliation, intimidation, and by understanding human weakness, and exploiting it. That 's how you control a class. Or you can do it by working them into a frenzy of excitement as you dispense your favors. I really don't mean to be cynical at all; that's how it's done.

Love: I perceived that. It took me a long time to figure it out; I was pretty well indoctrinated. But by the high school level, I noticed the teachers, especially the male teachers, felt more comfortable palling around with the athletes, than encouraging the more scholarly among us. And the doctors kids, and the lawyers kids. It seems like its pretty class based.

Gatto: Yes, very class based. I developed my own I called it the guerilla curriculum, because my intentions were malicious towards the conventional curriculum. But I developed it partly by watching the way upper class kids rewrote the curriculum to suit their proposes, and I began to borrow their privileges, and translate them into the lives of working class, slum kids. And the result was magical, really magical. My kids began to walk away with rewards and prizes that shouldn't have gone to them, and it upset everybody.

I'll tell you something funny. I just got a call today from a guy I never knew before, never heard of him before, and he told me he had won the Reader's Digest teacher/scholar award. I think they give ten of them a year, and you get $25,000, or "Hero of American Education;" whatever it is; he's the second one who's called me. He said that almost immediately, before he won the award, but when he began to produce outstanding results with kids who weren't supposed to, that he began to be harassed. People would avoid him. When he won the award, it bought him a breathing space of about 90 days, and then what they did was terminate his employment at the end of the year. Now, three months ago, a guy from Nebraska, who was the teacher/scholar/hero of Education of Nebraska called, and over a long conversation, he said by and large the same thing. You're not supposed to make these engineering discoveries that lead (to successful teaching).

I can tell you this; that the class system, which is really a caste system, and all of the mathematical Bell Curve distribution of talent is just horseshit; excuse my English. We have a system that makes it appear to be so. Once that system is in place, and it's in place by the end of third grade, probably before then, the people will perform exactly as if there were a Bell Curve distribution. You can short circuit the process (I guess that's how I won the Teacher of the Year thing, and these other guys won their heroes of education), so that temporarily, whatever was there originally can be activated. But it's inside the structure; it's by and large hopeless, because it's like a self sealing tire. White corpuscles swim to the source of the trouble and kill it.

Or you could say that a number of systems are in place that make people more or less alike, that control behavior. The major of those systems is schooling. And it gives us exactly the kind of population we need to sustain the kind of economy we have.

Love: Aside from the most excellent, public school has the effect of actually discouraging continuing in something. By the end of school, most people never want to crack a book again. They are totally intimidated by math. They don't want to do anything physical, they want to sit in front of their TV and watch other people do physical things.

Gatto: You're taught to self-select out of the competitive process. According to the American Library Association, only one American out of every eleven reads more than one book a year after they graduate from high school. Now, there is the great testimony to our literacy system. You only have to step back in history to the 1840s, and we were so spectacularly literate a country, that we attracted constant attention from European nations; they'd come over and study, and they couldn't believe what they saw; the farmers would go into the fields with a plow in one hand, and Descartes in the other, that's from Michael Chevalier, who wrote a book in 1838. But there were hordes of these people, who could not believe what they were seeing. And just 20 years later, it was gone.

Love: What becomes of people that are really educated, love learning, truth seekers, and all that; then they get into the world at large, and get into this job market that we have...

Gatto: You know, I think if they understand, and this is a far reach, but if they understand the nature of the society, there are cracks to maneuver in. I mean, Perot is a good example of that. The Wall Street Journal a few years ago, said one out of every 15 millionaires in the United States was a school drop out, and that's in the face of overwhelming prejudice and bad press against doing that. If you went back probably to the period of the twenties when nobody cared much whether you dropped out or not, I'm sure the figure would be much, much higher than that. Columbia did an interesting study in 1948 called "They Went to College." And they tracked, I think, 12,000 of their own graduates for a long time, 15 years or so, after they graduated. And they made an astonishing discovery; that in virtually no field at all except the ministry, did "A" students do best. In things like business, it was "C" students that did best, and law was "B-" students that did best, and so on. In attempting to hypothesize why this might be true, they missed what I think the correct hypothesis is; that the people had correctly understood that school has some importance, but it doesn't have much importance. They had written themselves freedom from obsessive schooling, and used that extra time to educate themselves. That was a much greater possibility before 1960 than afterwards, because the intervention of television as a national medium. After 1960, I think, it preempted huge amounts of time that people used to use to free themselves from the grip of schooling. I don't know whether there's a connection between these two facts, but beginning in 1960, the number of Americans patenting inventions, began to drop, and the drop accelerated. It's never reversed itself, until in 1990, 30 years later, less than 25% of all American patents, (and there are tens of thousands a year), were taken out by Americans. I got a letter from the patent office, that probably went to all the state Teachers of the Year, asking for my help, showing movies about how to invent things, because there is a national crisis. But of course, that's not how people invent things, looking at movies about people inventing things.

Matt is a resident of Olympia.

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Direct Action At The Nevada Test Site

Diana Arens

On April 11-12, 1992, the 100th Monkey Project to Stop Nuclear Testing put on a music and speakers event in Red Rock Bowl, Nevada, just outside of Las Vegas. This event kicked off a five day walk through the desert, culminating in direct action at the Nevada Test Site, where environmental racism is business as usual.

Direct action is different from political action, which is meant to influence or win power through indirect means, rather than to empower people. Political tactics, which include lobbying, bloc voting, and the like should be classed as indirect action. The essence of direct action is that it is unmediated, that is, no institution, professional or power center performs the action for you. In 1986 the Western Shoshone National Council began issuing one and two day permits to be on Shoshone land to demonstrators at the Nevada test site. The strategy was to use arrests for trespassing as a means of demonstrating that the US cannot accuse someone of trespassing on land it does not own. The government of the Western Shoshone wants to show that it is the US who is trespassing.

Armed only with their permits, demonstrators marched over 50 miles to the Nevada Test site from Red Rock Bowl. Every evening during the march, the "spokescouncil" would meet. These were the representatives of the affinity groups, who would make decisions by consensus. The majority of the debates in spokescouncil were between people who wanted to up the ante through direct actions, and people who wanted to keep the "jewel of the march" intact. Although united in their opposition to nuclear testing, there were disagreements about methods.

One large male Wackenhut, upon encountering Julia Annis sitting in the road, her arms linked with other protesters, put mace in her face and said, "Do you want pain? Is that what you want?"

On Easter Sunday, at the Nevada Test Site, the protesters encountered about 125 members of the Wackenhut Security Force, the company contracted to guard the DOE facility. Confronting a group of unarmed civilians blocking the road, the Wackenhuts were attired in uniforms reminiscent of Operation Desert Storm.

The individual Wackenhuts were anonymous, wearing neither badges nor names. The local police chief had just "deputized" them, giving them the authority to assist in the arrest of the demonstrators.

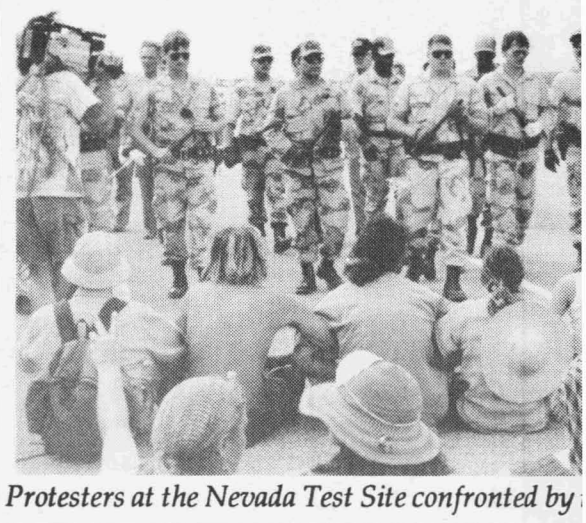
The actions at the Nevada Test Site occurred over a two day period, with about 500 arrests. Chris Phelps, wearing his permit with his real name on it, was arrested and issued a ticket in the name of John Doe. The police officer refused to issue a ticket to Phelps with his real name on it. At this point, the entire busload of arrested protesters joined Phelps in solidarity, refusing to cooperate until Phelps got a ticket with his real name.

Phelps felt that it was important to acknowledge that he had been there. The 100th Monkey Project plans a class action suit against the DOE on behalf of the thousands of people who have been removed from the test site over the years.

One large male Wackenhut, upon encountering Julia Annis sitting in the road, her arms linked with other protesters, put mace in her face and said, "Do you want pain? Is that what you want?" Annis was later the victim of a brutal arrest, with her arm twisted behind her back, screaming in pain, and her face held in the dirt. She felt that she and another woman had been singled out for humiliation in front of the group to try to break down group solidarity and morale.

Phelps and Annis felt that the effect of the civil resistance at the Nevada Test Site was primarily symbolic; they didn't actually stop a test or close the site down. However, media attention is important in order to wake people up.

Annis and Phelps also felt a great sense of personal empowerment from the direct action. Direct action gives people a sense of their individual and collective power. Direct action is a far more subversive idea than civil disobedience; it is not meant to reform or influence power, but to undermine it. Phelps said, "It's a powerful thing to sit in the road and resist the orders of a police officer, and to do instead what I believe in." The essence of direct action is people fighting for themselves, rejecting those who claim to represent their true interests.



Protesters at the Nevada Test Site confronted by

Feelings of solidarity and community are created between people working and struggling together to create their vision of a just society. Annis noted that civil resistance takes a lot of preparation, in group bonding and solidarity. She said it's important to remember that the police are willing to hurt you, and will try to break your resistance by making you feel weak.

Diana is a KAOS programmer. Her show is Free Things Are Cool, Wed 10 pm.

History of the Shoshone Tribes' Land

Diana Arens

We are all affected by radiation from the nuclear weapons cycle, but indigenous peoples around the world are the most directly affected. In a consistent pattern of cheap land grabs and illegal seizures, the US, Great Britain, France, and the former USSR have all usurped the lands of indigenous peoples for nuclear bomb tests, nuclear waste storage, and construction of nuclear facilities. In the US, bomb tests are carried out in Nevada on land illegally seized from the Western Shoshone Nation.

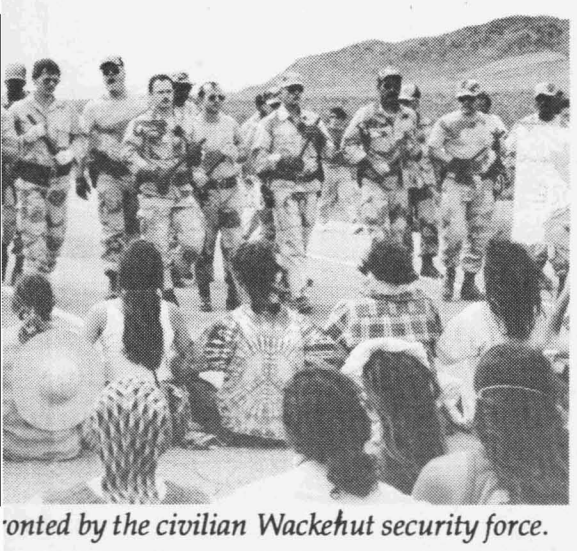
Colonel Raymond Brim, the federal officer responsible for monitoring of off-site fallout from underground detonations (1966-1975) has gone public saying that, "Americans were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation from "safe" underground test all through the 1960's and 1970's and remain in danger today. Just as the risk of fallout continues, so does the conscious government effort to cover up the situation."

All nuclear weapon states explode their bombs on unconsenting nations. No nuclear state tests bombs on its own lands and peoples. Americans don't set off nuclear weapons in Santa Barbara or Washington DC, they bomb the Western Shoshone Nation. Russians bomb Kazakhstan, Han Chinese bomb Nygur territory, French bomb Tuamotu Island peoples. Great Britain has bombed both Aboriginal nations and the Western Shoshone. No treaty, accord, agreement, vote, or sale exists that gives the US permission to explode nuclear devices on or under the Western Shoshone Nation.

The land of the Western Shoshone Nation, Newe Sogobia, was guaranteed them by the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley. The nation of Newe Sogobia has an area of 43,000 square miles. To invade and occupy this large nation the US has employed a range of land grabbing strategies not covered or permitted by the treaty. The US has usurped almost 90% of Shoshone lands and resources and placed them under the control of the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, etc.), Department of Energy (Atomic Energy Commission), Department of Defense, Department of Transportation and many other agencies used as part of the occupation.

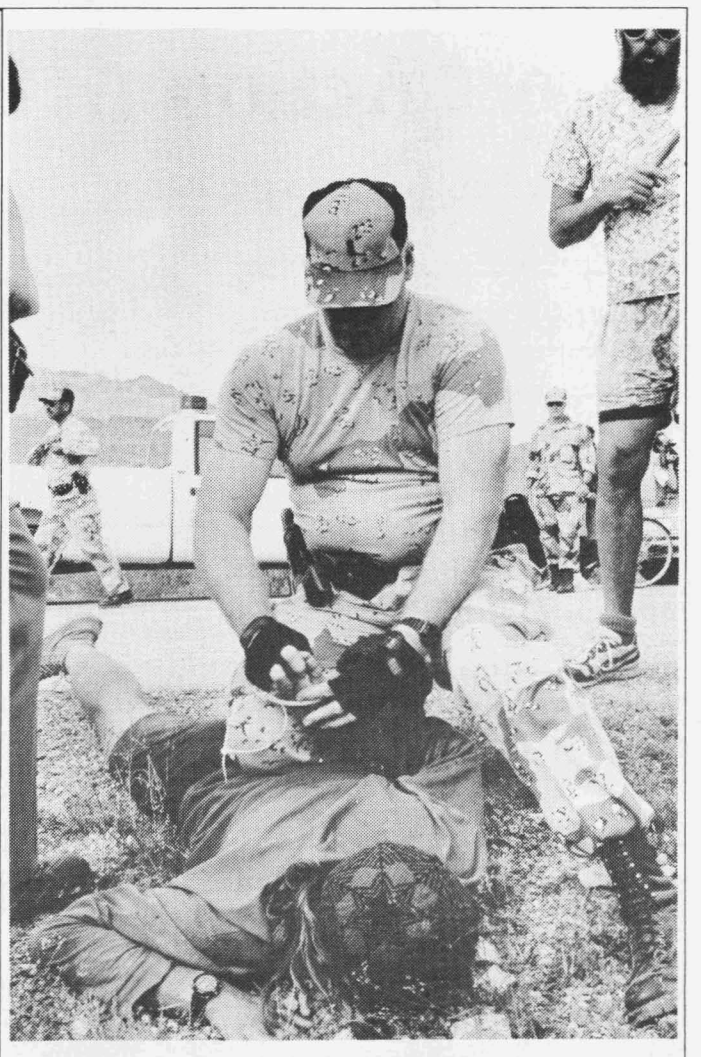
Western Shoshone people assert their nation cannot be taken, sold or bought by people of another nation regardless of how much Indian land is needed for "national defense" or for

Political tactics to s testing include writi support of testing mo elected officials. H "Testing Moratorium supported by writi Representative; US H resentatives; Wash 20515. Or support S ing to: Your Senator Washington, D



onted by the civilian Wackehut security force.

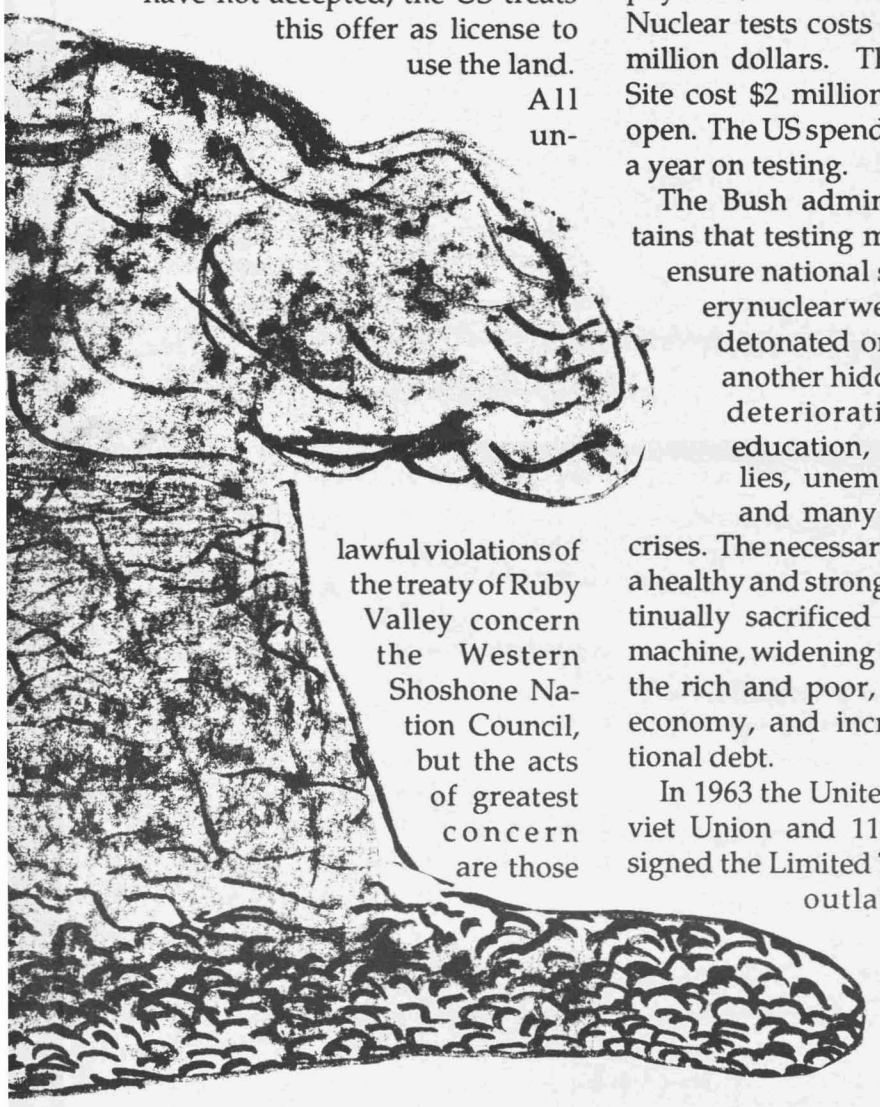
Photo by Chris Phelps



A protester confronted by a Wackehut

Photo by Chris Phelps

conservation, recreation and profit for non-Shoshones. In 1979, the US offered $26 million dollars (about $1.50 an acre) to "extinguish" Western Shoshone title to territory covered by the treaty. Although the Shoshones have not accepted, the US treats this offer as license to use the land. All unlawful violations of the treaty of Ruby Valley concern the Western Shoshone Nation Council, but the acts of greatest concern are those that threaten the world and affect all forms of life.



On January 27, 1951, the first United States nuclear weapons test was conducted at the Nevada Nuclear Test site. Since then, over 700 "tests" have occurred there, 100 in the atmosphere between 1951 and 1963.

ics to stop nuclear le writing letters in ing moratoriums to ials. HR3636, the torium Act", can be y writing to: Your e; US House of Rep- ; Washington, DC port S2064 by writ- Senator; US Senate; ton, DC 20510.

At least 250,000 US troops were directly exposed to atomic radiation during these early years of nuclear bomb testing, watching blasts as close as four miles away, and often moving into ground zero within two hours. As of 1981, the Veterans' Administration has turned down more than 98% or radiation-based claims for Veterans Service connected benefits.

During these years of above ground nuclear testing, high levels of radioactive fallout spread over a large area downwind. While the US government was aware of the danger of nuclear testing to soldiers and to those living downwind, they failed to warn or protect the inhabitants of the area. In fact, the downwinders were the recipients of a massive media campaign by the US Atomic Energy Commission casting the test program in a patriotic light.

Downwinders, those who live in Northern Nevada and Southern Utah exhibit exorbitant rates of cancers, sometimes three times the national average.

In addition to the health effects, the nuclear arms industry costs taxpayers a lot of money. Military spending costs the United States taxpayers $850 million every day. Nuclear tests costs from $6 to $150 million dollars. The Nevada Test Site cost $2 million a day to keep open. The US spends $3 to $4 billion a year on testing.

The Bush administration maintains that testing must continue to ensure national security, but every nuclear weapon produced, detonated or stockpiled has another hidden human cost: deteriorating US public education, homeless families, unemployed workers and many other domestic crises. The necessary ingredients for a healthy and strong society are continually sacrificed to the military machine, widening the gap between the rich and poor, weakening our economy, and increasing our national debt.

In 1963 the United States, the Soviet Union and 116 other nations signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, outlawing above-ground nuclear tests. Since then the US has detonated more than 700 bombs underground at the Nevada Test Site. One of the most pervasive, and erroneous, beliefs about the US nuclear testing program is that its radioactive fallout ended when this treaty took effect.

Colonel Raymond Brim, the federal officer responsible for monitoring of off-site fallout from underground detonations (1966-1975) has gone public saying that, "Americans were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation from "safe" underground test all through the 1960's and 1970's and remain in danger today. Just as the risk of fallout continues, so does the conscious government effort to cover up the situation."

What the government knows it is not publicizing. The Department of Energy has reported that half of all underground tests have resulted in leaked radiation, contaminating groundwater, soil, and the atmosphere. Cumulative deposits of Plutonium 239 and Plutonium 240 have been found in soils over 100 miles north of the Nevada Test Site at levels of 790 mg per acre, according to the EPA. Plutonium contaminants are radioactive and capable of causing cancer for 200,000 years. In high fallout areas of Utah, childhood leukemia rates 2.5 times the national average have been documented.

Groundwater in some aquifers at the Nevada Test Site is contaminated by tritium 3000 times in excess of safe drinking water standards, as well as by plutonium and other isotopes. Historically, the DOE has stated that groundwater contaminated by radioactivity would take thousands of years to migrate beyond NTS boundaries. But recent evidence from DOE scientists suggests the contaminated water could move off site in the order of hundreds of years.

All nuclear weapon states explode their bombs on unconsenting nations. No nuclear state tests bombs on its own lands and peoples. Americans don't set off nuclear weapons in Santa Barbara or Washington DC, they bomb the Western Shoshone Nation.

It seems obvious that the Limited Test Ban Treaty, moving tests underground, has only had the effect of moving the toxicity. Underground testing is not only reckless, it is irrational. This becomes clear when one considers the degree of scrutiny and quantity of resources that have been applied to finding a disposal site for high-level radioactive waste from other sources. All 118 nations party to the LTB, except the US and Britain, now support ratification of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, outlawing nuclear testing.

In January 1991 at the UN-hosted Partial Test Ban Treaty Amendment Conference, the United States blocked an effort by nearly 100 countries to achieve a Comprehensive Test Ban.

Testing continues because it is key to the development of new, more advanced, and more expensive nuclear weapons. The strongest opposition to the Comprehensive Test Ban comes from the US, where the military-industrial complex stands to lose billions of dollars if a ban is enacted.

The former Soviet Union is now in its third year-long moratorium and has appealed for a Comprehensive Test Ban. As of April 9, 1992, France has suspended testing of nuclear weapons "until the end of the year and suggested that it would extend the moratorium in 1993 if other nuclear powers followed suit." (New York Times)

Diana attended the 100th Monkey Event *in Red Rock Bowl, Nevada. The* 100th Monkey Project to Stop Nuclear Testing *is named after the phenomenon of the transfer of knowledge through a collective unconscious, described in the book,* 100th Monkey, *written by Ken Keyes.*

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Navy Engages In Witch Hunts Overseas

Richard Kirton

A massive witch-hunt is underway within the United States Navy. This U.S. Navy purge of suspected homosexuals began aboard the U.S.S. Blue Ridge & U.S.S. Independence, and has spread to Whidbey Island in Seattle, and a Naval Station in Yokosuka, Japan. At last count, about 50 service members have been discharged or court-martialed. This includes 2 Commanders, 3 Lieutenants, other officers, and enlisted personnel. The investigation may be spreading to other naval commands as service members recently transferred from affected stations are also being questioned. Sailors who have been transferred to Treasure Island, CA for final out processing report shocking instances of abuse and coercion by the Naval Investigative Services (NIS).

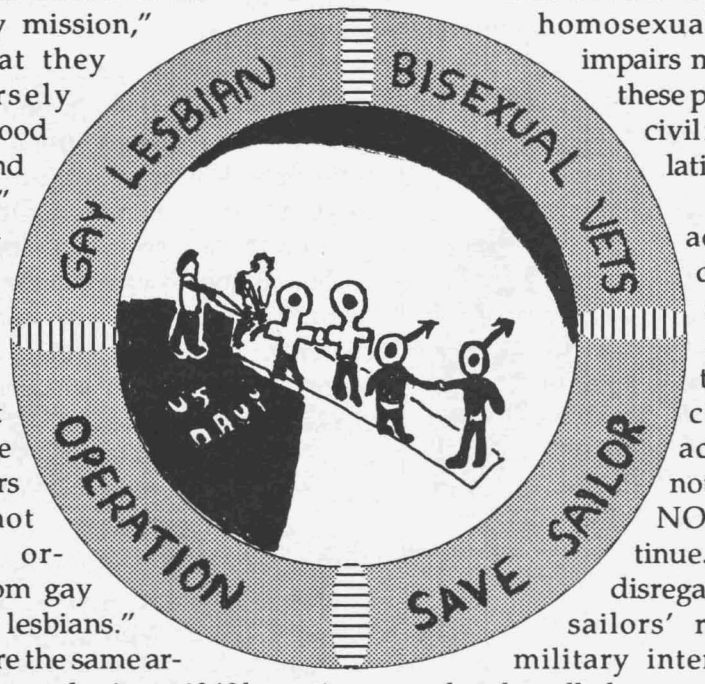
The investigation began after two sailors aboard the Blue Ridge were caught having sex in February. In the ensuing interrogations by NIS investigators, one sailor was reportedly allowed to continue "dating" other men, to assist the investigation. This man is obviously being used by the NIS as an entrapment tool in order to identify and persecute more gay sailors. According to some involved, NIS investigators are using threats of court-martial against individual sailors if they refuse to provide names or evidence against other gay service members in that area; it appears that other types of threats are being employed as well. One thing is very certain: almost none of the individuals currently under investigation have been offered legal counsel, either JAG or civilian. Reportedly, none have been told that they do not have to waive rights. Instead, it appears that sailors are being told to sign away their rights (sign a waiver) and are being told that they will be given honorable discharges IF they give NIS information about other gays. This action of harassment and intimidation is highly illegal, but one of "Standard Operating Procedure" by NIS and other military related investigative agencies.

Three sailors who refused to cooperate with the investigation were taken to Captain's Mast (a disciplinary hearing) before their return here. Based solely on the statement of the soldier who implicated the accused service members, the XO who heard the "case" decided that all three were gay, found them guilty of sodomy and indecent acts, and sentenced them to three days BREAD AND WATER in the brig, before discharge from the Navy. Prosecutors offered no other evidence and the accused were not allowed to face their accuser. Two of the Three sailors are African-American. Unconfirmed reports indicate that their discharges are Other-Than-Honorable. Had the three cooperated with NIS investigators--by allowing NIS to blatantly violate their constitutional rights--they MIGHT have received a higher level of discharge. It should be noted that some of the others are expecting to receive honorable discharges due to the positive handling of their cases by officials at Treasure Island in the effort to correct the actions by the NIS interrogators overseas.

In an apparently unrelated case, it appears there is now a small witch hunt onboard the U.S.S. Kennedy. Sources onboard confirm at least seven sailors have been placed on administrative leave pending discharge for their perceived sexual orientation. The U.S.S. Kennedy is stationed in Richmond, Virginia.

Department of Defense policy states in part, "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service." This policy not only allows but encourages blatant discrimination of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. Last year, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney stated that this policy was "a bit of an old chestnut" which he had "inherited," yet he refused to change it. After Pentagon Spokesman Pete Williams was "outed", the policy was altered to exclude only military personnel in uniform. Dick Cheney made it very clear in an article in a Chicago newspaper that Pete Williams' sexual orientation had absolutely no bearing on his capability to do the job. Still, Cheney refuses to change the policy. Both houses of Congress have adopted resolutions encouraging the President to change the policy, yet the policy remains unchanged. Numerous researchers, including some employed by the Department of Defence, as well as some court cases, have concluded that gay men and lesbians are both suitable and reliable for military service.

The military's current rationale for retaining the policy include the contention that gays "impair the accomplishment of the military mission," and that they "adversely affect good order and morale." Additionally they claim that "service members will not accept orders from gay men or lesbians." These are the same arguments used prior to 1948 by anti-desegregation forces. President Truman desegregated the military and now, almost 45 years later, every service member takes orders from an African-American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The same arguments are used to keep women out of combat...yet women have proven themselves combat capable in Operations "Just Cause," "Desert Shield," and "Desert Storm."



The military's . . . policy include the contention that gays "impair the accomplishment of the military mission," and that they "adversely affect good order and morale."

The "old chestnut" policies, and the witch-hunts used to enforce them, are immoral attacks on our own fellow countrymen and women. The witch- hunts are conducted without regard to the personal freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Constitution these men and women have sworn to defend! The investigators use tactics of extreme intimidation, harassment, unlawful searches, unlawful interrogations, and unlawful surveillances all against UNITEDSTATES CITIZENS.

It is not the existence of homosexuals which impairs morale but these purges and civil rights violations.

We must act immediately to show the military that this course of action can not... MUST NOT continue. The utter disregard for our sailors' rights by military interrogators needs to be called out, and stopped immediately for good. Call or write your congressional delegation, the President, and Department of Defense officials protesting the witch hunt and the illegal NIS tactics. Help spread the word. The more the Navy and DOD sees in the media about this the stronger notice is served that such horror against American service personnel will not be tolerated or go unnoticed. Public awareness and outrage is one of the main keys to putting and end to this witch hunt and others like it. The Gay Lesbian Bisexual Veterans Association (GLBVA) has initiated Operation Save Sailor in an effort to combat the effects of this latest string of witch hunts. In order to make this effective they must immediately raise $2500.00 If you feel you can contribute make your check payable to GLBVA OpSavSail and send it to: GLBVA c/o Washington Freedom Coalition, 412 Division St NW Suite A, Olympia, Wa 98502. The Washington Freedom Coalition is also circulating petitions and working on the issue locally. To find out how you can help call our hotline at 943-4662.

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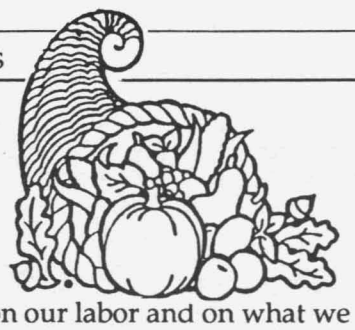
TAXING LAND-VALUES IN OUR POLITICAL ECONOMY



Marvin Saillard

Political economy deals with the nature of wealth and with its production and distribution. The production of wealth is not complete until the product being produced reaches the hands of the consumer. Up to that point the consumer product is capital. After that point the consumer product is wealth. Some capital is used, only in the process of production, in order to make labor more effective and more productive. Some capital is referred to as the means of production. All capital is wealth that is used to produce more wealth

Wealth is anything produced from land by labor for the satisfaction of human desires as long as it has exchange value. Land, labor and capital are the only three factors involved with the production of wealth. Man cannot live without access to land, and wherever man goes, land has use-value. Whenever there is more than one person who needs or desires the same plot of land, the use-value of land turns into an exchange value called rent-of-land.

Each person who contributes his labor to the production of wealth is entitled to part of the wealth produced, as wages of labor. Any laborer who earns his wages, saves his wages, and invests his saved wages in capital (tools), is entitled to the increase in the wealth produced, as his return of interest (wages of the labor stored up in the capital.)

As communities form and population grows, labor and capital become more productive due to cooperation and specialization of labor. Different locations within the community become better suited for one use over another. Location advantage premiums translate into the rental-value of land. Every good real estate agent knows that the value of property depends on location, location, location. The price of the capital improvements may be the same on different land-sites, but the overall price of the property will vary according to the value of its location.

Wages and interest are the earned incomes of labor and capital. Rent-of-land is a surplus value arising from the presence and activity of all the people in the community. Rent-of-land is subsidized by the taxpayers whose earned incomes are taxed to finance the community services which help to create and sustain the rental-value of land.

Rent-of-land is a community-created value that should be much more heavily taxed in order to support the community government and the community services This would make it possible to reduce taxes on labor and capital, thereby restoring the incentive for people to invest their labor and capital in improving their property. This would help to upgrade the community and would create more jobs for the people who live in the community.

If we levy a heavy tax on the rental-value of land, while removing or reducing the taxes on labor and capital, we will encourage capital improvements and discourage land speculation. Land speculation holds good land out of good use while waiting for land-price inflation to reward the speculators with high unearned profits from selling their land to developers. While speculators make big profits, other people are driven into the streets as victims of poverty and homelessness.

A two rate property tax with a high tax rate on land and a low or no tax rate on buildings and improvements, along with low or no taxes on other labor and capital, would do away with land-price inflation and make it profitable to put good land to good use, thereby creating employment opportunities and giving us a healthy political economy.

A healthy local economy would reduce or eliminate the need for local government to turn to the state or national government for funds to bolster the economy in our community. Welfare programs could be scaled down to manageable levels because land-value taxation would create numerous good jobs. Land-value taxation encourages efficient use of land by making it unprofitable to hold valuable locations out of use, or in underdeveloped use, while waiting for the artificial scarcity of good locations to force up the price of land, and allow landowners to sell at a large unearned profit.

While some people benefit from inflated land prices, other people cannot afford to buy homes. High land prices jack up the price of all goods and services because there is no job and no product which we can have without paying for access to high priced land. The rich get richer because of land-price inflation and the poor get poorer due to the high price of land and goods and services. The only way to reverse this trend is to tax land more heavily and reduce or eliminate all taxes on our labor and on what we produce.

Most of us earn our living from our wages of labor. Some of us benefit a little from interest earned from wages invested in capital. A few of us are speculating on a piece of land that will provide us with an unearned profit to use for retirement or to send a child or grandchild to college. Think how much better it would be if we did away with all unearned income from community-created land-values, and used land-value taxation to finance our community government and our community services, while reducing prices and increasing purchasing power by cutting down on, or eliminating, most other taxes.

If we levy a heavy tax on the rental-value of land, while removing or reducing the taxes on labor and capital, we will encourage capital improvements and discourage land speculation.

Doesn't anyone think it is significant that less than 5% of the people in our nation own more than 95% of the land, and that **EXXON CORPORATION** is one of the largest landowners in the country? The first Marshall Field, who is best known for owning Marshall Field's Department Store in Chicago, once declared that "Land is the only way to make money." It is the only way to make money without working for it, unless you inherit it.

How do I happen to know about land-value taxation? In 1954 I read and studied *PROGRESS AND POVERTY An inquiry into the cause of industrial depressions and of increase of want with increase of wealth...The Remedy* by Henry George (18391897). The book was published in 1879 and was dedicated "To those who, seeing the vice and misery that spring from the unequal distribution of wealth and privilege, feel the possibility of a higher social state and would strive for its attainment."

Because of this book, I have chosen to strive for the adoption of land-value taxation in the United States and the world. I have elected to start where I am. I am in Olympia, Washington.

Yours for taxing unearned incomes from land-values, Marvin Saillard
1111 Archwood Drive SW, #290
Olympia, WA 98502
206-956-3245

I am a member of the Washington State Georgist Association
Hamlet Hilpert, President
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Centralia, WA 98531
206-736-3639

We are a chapter of Common Ground - USA
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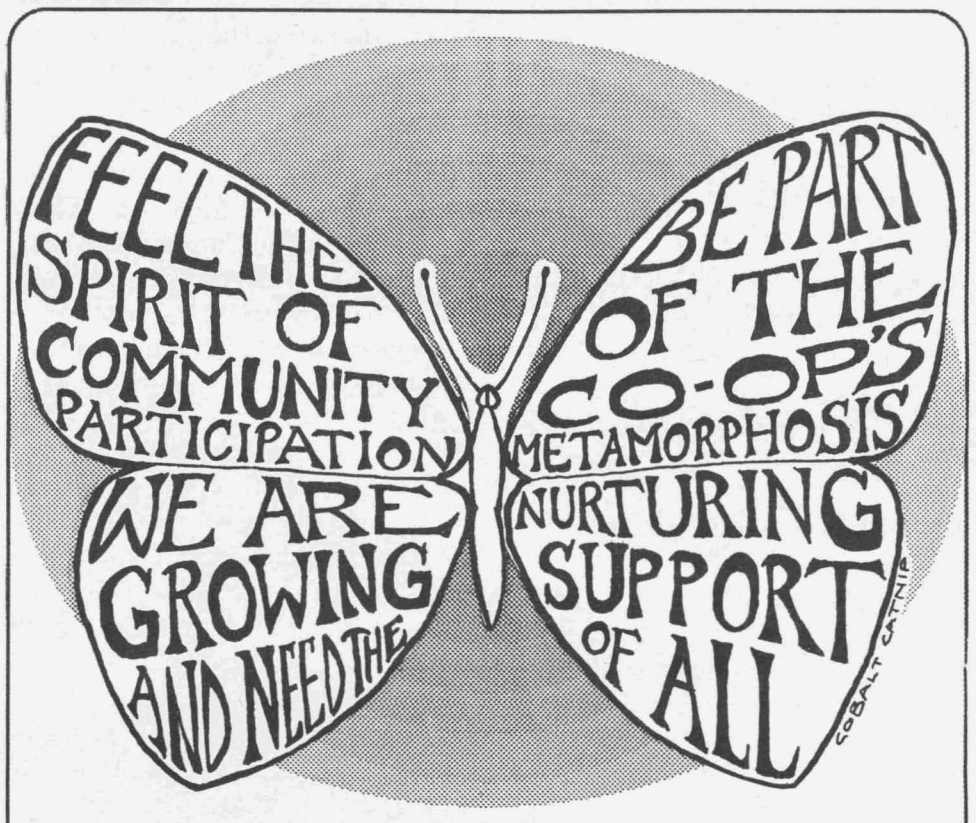
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We Must Start Building a Movement for a New Society Now

sarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or Works In Progress or any of its members.

Pat Holm

I heard Ron Daniels speak at the African American Leadership Conference sponsored by the Evergreen Labor Center in Tacoma last month and he is willing to start this new movement by running for President in '92.

He says, "The only relevant task in '92 is to build a movement and a new political party committed to the politics of social transformation and a new society." The campaign for the '92 election is a prelude to a permanent, mass based, democratic Independent Political Organization (IPO) with the vision, capacity and confidence to fight for power and governance.

To get Ron Daniels on the ballot as an Independent this fall will take a bit of work. First, come to Seattle June 27 between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. to sign in as a registered voter as part of a statewide nominating convention. 300 signatures are needed. Then we need to gather 3000 additional signatures on petitions. Since the purpose of this campaign is to build a movement, we must mobilize and organize the unregistered voters by finding churches, schools and unions where Ron Daniels can speak as well as mobilizing our friends and neighbors.

The person to call for more information in Olympia is Greg Starling at 754-7473.

So who is this Ron Daniels anyway?

* Executive Director, National Rainbow Coalition, 1987

* Southern Regional Coordinator and Deputy Campaign Manager, Jesse Jackson for President Campaign, 1988

* National Co-Chair, National Black Independent Political Party, 1980-1985

* Author, Lecturer, Syndicated Columnist

* B.A. Degree, History and M.A. Degree, Political Science

The campaign for the '92 election is a prelude to a permanent, mass based, democratic Independent Political Organization (IPO) with the vision, capacity and confidence to fight for power and governance.

Here are some excerpts from Ron Daniels' article, printed in the Philadelphia New Observer:

A New Party Must Challenge the Rule of the Rich in the U.S.
by Ron Daniels

"To the extent that peoples movements have succeeded, it is because these movements challenged the rule of the power elite in the streets and at the ballot box. And so it must be in 1992."

"The ruling elite, however, now presides over an economy which is reeling under the impact of their mismanagement. Communism has collapsed in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. But Capitalism is also collapsing in the U.S. Massive unemployment, homelessness, crumbling inner-cities, an escalating crisis of drugs, crime and violence, declining quality of education, and a poisoned and polluted environment are but a few of the consequences of the callous rule of the rich and the super-rich."

"...We must tell the people that the purpose of government and the economy is not to promote and protect the interest of the rich and the super-rich. The purpose of government and the economy must be to promote the human fulfillment of all people who live in this society."

"...We must invite the people to join a movement dedicated to the structuring of a Socially Responsible Economy as the centerpiece of the new economic order which we envision: an economy based on the principles of economic democracy and equality; an economy which will rein in and regulate the behavior of the transnationals and all corporations and make them accountable to the workers, and the communities in which they are situated; an economy which discourages monopoly and encourages community controlled and directed, democratic economic enterprises eg., community development corporations, community-worker owned and directed enterprises; a peace economy free of the dictatorship of the military-industrial complex; and an economy based on the principles of environmental and ecological sustainability."

And as Ron Daniels reminded us at the Conference in Tacoma, we can't wait for a new leadership to "emerge." We must be the new leadership ourselves.

Let's begin by carpooling to Seattle on June 27 and signing in at the convention for the Washington State Campaign for a New Tomorrow.

Pat Holm is a member of the WIP collective, but her views do not neces-

Drawing by Pat Tassoni

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Roe v. Wade and Beyond

Michael D. Simpson

If the Supreme Court overturns the decision in Roe v. Wade, basic constitutional rights could be threatened.

If an unwed teacher becomes pregnant as the result of a rape, can a school board fire her because she chooses not to have an abortion?

No - a woman has the constitutional right to reproductive freedom. At least for now.

This is not some hypothetical case; an NEA [National Education Association] member actually was fired for choosing childbirth rather than abortion. And consistent with its policy in favor of reproductive freedom, NEA, along with its state affiliate, provided legal assistance to the teacher who successfully argued that her firing was illegal.

This case powerfully illustrates why NEA's policy supporting the right to reproductive freedom is not "pro-abortion" but pro-choice. The constitutional right to reproductive freedom includes the right to choose childbirth rather than abortion.

The facts of Jeanne Eckmann's case were circulated widely in the national media in the early 1980s. Eckmann had spent two years preparing to be a nun in a St. Louis convent before leaving to become a school teacher. She taught in Catholic schools for six years before taking a job in the public schools.

In November 1980, Eckmann was raped while returning from a religious retreat. Although she did not report the assault to the police, she did confide in her roommate several weeks later. In December Eckmann discovered she was pregnant and told her superintendent, who suggested that she keep her pregnancy quiet. After all, people in the small Illinois district might talk.

To avoid any risk to her job, Eckmann could have gotten an abortion. But "as a devout Catholic," she would later say, "I would not even consider abortion."

Eckmann took medical leave in April 1981. A month before her delivery, the board president and school superintendent paid her a visit. According to Eckmann, the president "said I should resign because I was immoral."

When Eckmann said she'd been raped, he answered, "You may be asked to certify that."

Instead of resigning, Eckmann contacted her UniServ director. He went to the next school board meeting to argue against any adverse action.

But in July the board began the dismissal process. Eckmann received a notice alleging, among other things, that she was "guilty of immorality": "your conduct in becoming pregnant outside the state of marriage has lessened your ability to teach and the ability of your students to learn their lessons from you."

On the next day Eckmann's son was born.

Eckmann returned to teaching in the fall of 1981 but was fired in January 1982. With the help of NEA and the Illinois Education Association, she challenged her dismissal before a state hearing officer. NEA and IEA eventually spent $36,000 in legal fees.

Noting that it is unconstitutional to fire a teacher for having a child out of wedlock, the hearing officer ruled that Eckmann had been illegally dismissed and ordered her reinstated with full back pay.

Eckmann then retained her own attorney and sued the school board for violating her constitutional rights. The trial judge ruled that the right to choose childbirth rather than abortion is part of the constitutional right to privacy established by *Roe v. Wade*.

"If the right of privacy means anything, it is the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child," the court said.

In July 1985, the jury found for Eckmann.

Of the three NEA-funded federal appeals defending members' rights under Roe v. Wade, none involved the right to abortion. Rather, all three asserted other privacy rights grounded in Roe, including the right to nurture a child, to bear a child, and to divorce.

In *Dike v. School Board of Orange County, Fla.* (1981), for example, NEA challenged a school board decision forbidding a teacher to breastfeed her baby on school grounds during her duty-free lunch period. NEA argued that the right to rear children is encompassed in the right to privacy recognized by *Roe v. Wade*..

Calling breastfeeding "the most elemental form of parental care," the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals held that—like "individual decisions respecting marriage, procreation, contraception [and] abortion"—breastfeeding is constitutionally protected.

The issue in *Littlejohn v. Rose* (1985) was whether a school board violated a teacher's right to privacy by refusing to renew her contract because she was involved in a divorce. NEA argued that the right to divorce is constitutionally protected under *Roe v. Wade*.

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed. Citing *Roe*, the court held that "matters relating to marriage and family relationships involve privacy rights that are constitutionally protected against unwarranted governmental interference...*Roe* clearly established...a constitutionally-protected right to privacy which includes matters relating to procreation and marriage.

Finally, in *Avery v. Homewood City Board of Education* (1982), NEA relied on Roe in arguing that the dismissal of a teacher because of an unwed pregnancy violated her right to procreation. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed that such a termination was unconstitutional, but based its decision on equal protection rather than privacy grounds.

When delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly convene in Washington, D.C., next July, a few blocks from the U.S. Supreme Court, there is a real possibility that *Roe V. Wade* will no longer be the law of the land.

The High Court will soon hear *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, in which the Third Circuit Court of Appeals upheld most provisions of Pennsylvania's restrictive abortion law.

Most of these provisions had been struck down by the Supreme Court in several post-Roe cases. But the Third Circuit concluded, in light of more recent Supreme Court decisions, that the High Court has abandoned its holding in Roe that abortion is a fundamental right under the U.S. Constitution.

Most interested observers agree that the Rehnquist Court eventually will overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

The demise of *Roe* will have serious consequences for NEA members. Compelled completion of pregnancy will result in more teachers being fired for "immorality."

Even worse, the legal argument that saved the jobs of Eckmann and Avery may no longer succeed: if the right to privacy does not protect the right to choose abortion, it may not protect the right to choose childbirth.

Finally, as the privacy cases funded by NEA illustrate, *Roe v. Wade* is the cornerstone of many fundamental rights we now take for granted: marriage, procreation, childrearing, and family life, to name a few. Once that cornerstone is removed, other privacy rights are at risk.

NEA is signing onto an *amicus* brief in the *Casey* case. Sponsored by Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and the Women's Law Project, the brief will argue that fundamental constitutional rights, once recognized by the Supreme Court, should not be taken away, especially not as a consequence of a personnel change on the Court.

Arguments in the case likely will be heard in April, and a decision should be announce before the Court recesses the first week in July.

Michael D. Simpson works in the National Education Association's Office of General Counsel. This article is reprinted with permission from the April '92 issue of NEA Today, 1201 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-3290. © 1992

***The trial judge ruled that the right to choose childbirth rather than abortion is part of the constitutional right to privacy established by* Roe v. Wade.**

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Trials of the Press

Matt Love

In the preface to his extremely important book, "The Media Monopoly," Ben Bagdikian recalled his interest, as a young reporter, in the Sacco and Vanzetti case. The two men, Italian immigrants and anarchists, were arrested in 1920 for a cold-blooded murder, committed on a sidewalk in daylight, by five men who drove off in a car.

He wrote, "This was during a national hysteria, whipped by fear of the Russian Revolution a few years earlier, by an endemic bias against all 'foreigners,' by an uninformed public notion about anarchists, and by A. Mitchell Palmer, attorney general of the United States, who used the Department of Justice to attack all radicals in mass arrests known as the "Palmer Raids," which had become almost a national sport.

At the time of the arrests, most newspapers supported the Palmer Raids, and, despite the overwhelming evidence of gross improprieties of justice, were enthusiastic about convicting Sacco and Vanzetti. The press is a mirror of sorts, which might account for its reflection and promotion of the hysteria. But in its great numbers and variety, it is also supposed to be a kind of balance wheel, bringing reason and diversity of opinion to its reporting and commentary. The balance wheel had failed.

By the time Sacco and Vanzetti were to be electrocuted in 1927, most of the serious press had changed its mind. Reporters confirmed the state had been dishonest and suppressed evidence. Editors had become convinced that there had been a grave miscarriage of justice. It was too late."

This hysteria was repeated in the 50's, this time named McCarthyism. Interestingly enough, a prime architect of the Palmer raids and McCarthyism was J. Edgar Hoover, the fervently anticommunist Director for life of the FBI.

Since the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, the country has taken another turn to conservatism, and witch hunting. Lacking a credible communist (or even terrorist) threat, the media in recent times has turned to "Ritual Abuse" for rating-boosting hysteria.

Julie Blacklow, ex-KING-TV reporter, and Ed Evans, formerly of KIRO-TV, have both given scathing analyses on the role rating pressures played in their respective stations coverage of Satanic abuse cases. Evans described a rating war in May '89, with each station trying to "out-Satanize" the other.

When I interviewed Alexander Cockburn, he told me "in 30 years time, they'll look back on this as one of the most deranged episodes of the second half of the century, anywhere. Terrible injustices have been done in this business...lives have been utterly destroyed, forever."

That is certainly true. In a case in El Paso, TX, Michelle Noble was sentenced to life plus 311 years . Gayle Dove was sentenced to 3 life sentences plus 60 years. They both served over 2 years in prison before the sentences were overturned. In 1987, New Jersey day care teacher Kelly Michaels was sentenced to over 500 years in prison for sex abuse crimes she almost certainly did not commit. She remains in prison today. The McMartin case, now all but discredited in the media that did so much to fuel the hysteria, shattered lives. Locally, Jim Rabie and Ray Risch's lives have been torn apart, and will never be the same. Paul Ingram is still in prison.

Consider for a moment the case of Bill and Kathy Swan in Seattle. They were accused of abusing their three year old daughter, and each sentences to four years in prison. Though there is no ritual component to this case, it has many familiar elements; hearsay testimony based on statements allegedly made by children too young to be considered competent (that is, able to tell the difference between truth and falsehood, reality and fantasy) to testify, a complete lack of physical evidence, charges made by unreliable witnesses.

"Terrible injustices have been done in this business...lives have been utterly destroyed, forever." [Cockburn]

The Swans will have a difficult time proving their innocence; these cases usually fall apart (if they do) when juries examine transcripts of the interviews with the children. They are often bullied, manipulated, belittled, and bribed into saying the "right" things. In the Swan's case, there are no records of these initial interviews.

Any innocent plea is an attempt to prove a negative; logically very difficult. This is why the defense need only establish a reasonable doubt. In the Swan's case the chief accuser has discredited herself with her own statements; she claims to have been sexually molested by over 300 men, women and children before the age of 22. Employers have signed statements that she was untrustworthy, and obsessed with sexual abuse. A recent examination of the child by a gynecological expert reveals no physical evidence; the initial examination was made by an inexperienced nurse, who has since retreated from his initial conclusions. Jurists have come forward, and said they would have voted differently had they known these things. Despite this, the Washington State Supreme Court has refused to hear their appeal.

As with Sacco and Vanzetti, the media has in part come around. The Swan case has received national TV coverage on several programs, all of them highly sympathetic to the Swans. I found this ironic, given the role that the national media played in whipping up Satanic abuse hysteria when Geraldo Rivera and others used it as a forum.

If the local media has doubts about the case, they haven't expressed them. The editors at the Seattle papers sniffed that 60 Minutes, et al. simply don't know the case, and don't have the skill the local reporters do. A friend of mine, a journalist who has been nominated or a Pulitzer Prize for articles on Ritual Abuse, told me that the Seattle papers appear to her to indulge in "yellow journalism" than most.

She also astutely perceived that my interest in this case goes beyond the journalistic. She warned me not to get too emotionally involved. She told me there is so much injustice in these cases, they can make you crazy. Furthermore, she pointed out that the Swans were only sentenced to

The Olympia Movement For Justice And Peace Is Alive And Well!

Sheila Payne

The O.M.J.P. has evolved from the Central American Action Committee and from the anti-Gulf war group- the Olympia Anti-Intervention Coalition. We have been active in organizing educational events and actions around the issues of Palestine, El Salvador, U.S. economic injustice, the farm workers of Wash. State, and the Quincentennial. We have worked alone, and in concert with other justice, peace, and educational groups.

We are involved in things that many of you may want to be part of. Some of the events or forums that we have sponsored or co-sponsored in the last few months are listed below.

In January, we co-presented a forum about Palestine that included an expatriated Palestinian speaker, and a documentary shot in Palestine by an OMJP member. This forum was to inform people not only of the conditions in the Middle East for Palestinians, but to alert the audience to the impending vote in Congress on the $10 billion housing loan guarantees to the Israeli Government.

In February, we organized a march of Washington State farm workers and supporters, that ended with a rally on the steps of the capitol, and a fiesta afterwards. It wrapped up 7 months of picketing 2 area sores, plus it was a march of outrage directed at the state legislature for failing again to recognize that farmworkers must be guaranteed the right to organize themselves into a union, to be represented in the fields. We also joined in solidarity with other boycott committees across the state, in their marches for justice. TAKE TO THE STREETS FOR JUSTICE IN THE FIELDS.

In March, we helped to bring Alexander Cockburn and a film about the war in Iraq, and its aftermath here to Olympia. We became witness to the horrifying effects of the U.S. imposed trade embargo on the Iraqi people.

In March, OMJP also sponsored a talk downtown by Steve Robideaux, covering the history of the case of Native American activist Leonard Peltier., to the present day. Afterwards, LeRoy Mills of the Native American Indian Association spoke about the events being organized to commemorate the continuation of the 500 years of Indigenous people's resistance. There will be a caravan going to San Francisco for 2 weeks of events, starting with an International tribunal to put those like Columbus and Bush on trial for land theft, broken treaties, etc.

On April 15, we presented a panel that described economic injustice in the U.S. and the economic deprivation within our own county; the lack of affordable housing, the unemployment and under employment of people, the lack of opportunities for disenfranchised people.

We also co-sponsored Judi Bari's trip to Olympia this month. She and the speakers before her were fantastic. Her's was a message of the struggles in organizing, but' also about how individuals can make a difference in their communities. Together we can make a difference in the environment, we can form coalitions between seemingly divergent groups, we can make a difference on issues of equality, justice, and peace.

Join us! We are trying to update our mailing list/phone tree. Call us at 352-2153 or write us at PO Box 7454, 98507. Our next two meetings are June 2nd, T.E.S.C., library 2218,

four years, as opposed to the grotesque terms others have been sentenced to. They will probably be out of prison before they've even had a chance to exhaust their legal appeals.

All this is true; however, their child has been taken from them, and only costly and persistent legal action has prevented their child' from being put up for adoption. There are few things that terrifying to a parent than the thought of their child being kidnapped; if the state has done it, it could only be that much more nightmarish. I've never met the Swans, but I am haunted by their plight. It seems it could all too easily happen to any of us.

The Rodney King trial has thrown into stark relief how poorly our judicial system delivers justices. Media critics such as Bagdikian show us how poorly the media delivers news. You have to inform yourself. You can send $25.00 to the Swan Defense Fund at P.O. Box 25026, Seattle WA 98125-1926, and they will send you a stack of clips and court documents. You don't have to have a great legal mind for the materials to raise reasonable doubts.

---

and June 16th, downtown Timberline library, both at 7:30.

We are leafletting twice weekly at Top Foods. The Management will not allow us to informational leaflet customers on their property about the boycott of Chateau St. Michelle wines. We are going to press the issue, and are soliciting legal advice in the event of arrests being made. We feel that the constitutional right to free speech and assemble supersedes any claims to private property rights.

The Quincentennial Committee is meeting at TESC library on alternate Thursdays. To get more info call 493-1103 or 352-1767. The committee is sponsoring a conference at Evergreen on May 30, to increase awareness about Indigenous People's struggles worldwide, and to organize the caravan. There will be panel discussions and workshops, and a series of films.

We are planning a forum on racism, that will include high school students as speakers and facilitators If you have any ideas call 352-2153. We are also looking into the possibility of having a weekly column in the Olympian where activist groups such as the FOR, and Amnesty International and others could address real concerns about racism labor issues, the death penalty, etc.

We are also still interested in creating a communal space downtown, that all people would be free to use. It would house a library, video tapes, a computer, and it would serve as a place for example, where people can congregate to organize actions quickly in response to events such as the acquittal of the police who beat Rodney King.

So, call us.

Sheila Payne is a member of Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.

Towards A Lasting Peace With Justice

Greg Bye

The ongoing building of settlements by Israel in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights, and its military occupations in these places (and Southern Lebanon) does nothing to enhance "Israel's security." In fact the opposite is true. For if Israel continues with its present policies—rather than to seriously negotiate for a peaceful solution—one sure result will be the persistence of hostilities in the region; quite possibly leading to the physical destruction of Israel and much of the surrounding area. This was the message that former Israeli general, and long-time peace activist, Matti Peled brought to UW's Kane Hall on May 12th.

. . . the US has consistently used its power in the UN Security Council to veto resolutions calling for a peaceful settlement.

As has been conveyed elsewhere, huge quantities of weapons are being sold to nations in the Middle East. Much of them are of high sophistication and/or of great destructive power. And, unfortunately, in the words of Peled, "Arms are to be used. That's the nature of things...And there is a vested interest in seeing that these things are used." If, for no other reason, so that the arms merchants can show potential buyers the effectiveness of their products.

Rather than have the region continue on the military track, Peled supports the overwhelming "international consensus" for a diplomatic solution to the conflicts. A favorable outcome would be a settlement that would have among its main planks the following: Withdrawal of all armed forces from territories occupied due to acts of war since June, 1967 (This "would include Israel from the areas that were mentioned above, as well as Syria from Lebanon.); The guarantee of the "territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones... "; And the creation of a Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza.

Peled considers the recent Middle East peace talks to be "essentially worthless." This was especially so in the Israeli-Palestinian "negotiations"—if they could be called that. For, as Peled pointed out, to have "fruitful negotiations", both sides must be able to make demands on the other. Then worthwhile concessions can be made. But in the Secretary Baker-sponsored "talks" the only issue seriously discussed was that of "limited autonomy" for Palestinians living in the West Bank. There was no attempt to resolve such important questions as land ownership and Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. The Israeli military occupation was not an issue; nor were water rights. Likewise, the creation of a Palestinian State in the occupied territories was not on the agenda either. In other words, while land continues to be taken from Palestinians, their homes demolished, much of their water diverted to Israel and to the settlements in the occupied territories, Palestinians living in the West Bank have the option of either choosing to have "free and fair" elections — with the exclusion of the PLO, who have the overwhelming support of the Palestinians—to determine some sort of "limited autonomy"; or they can reject the proposal. But, regardless, serious negotiations for Palestinian national self-determination have been set back indefinitely.

As anyone who has been active in the movement for peace and justice in the Middle East can verify, the major obstacle to a diplomatic settlement has been the US executive. Specifically, as the historical record shows, the US has consistently used its power in the UN Security Council to veto resolutions calling for a peaceful settlement. Therefore it would seem that the only type of solution that the US executive finds acceptable are ones based on violence. And recall Peled's warning of where this will likely lead.

Presently, efforts are being made to persuade the US executive to change their "rejectionist policy" towards peace. Two of the organizations in this country working towards this goal are the Palestine Solidarity Committee and the International Jewish Peace Union.

It has been largely through the endeavors of organizations like these that such things as increased awareness by the American public of the situation in the occupied territories, and the recent blocking of loans to Israel (for increased illegal settlement building) have occurred. These developments are indeed hopeful, as well as being beneficial for the people caught in the situation. But to be ultimately successful, an internationally sanctioned just diplomatic solution will take, I believe, a somewhat higher level of mobilization on the part of the American people.

Although polls in this country have indicated a good deal of support for the "international consensus" for peace in the Middle East, there are inherent problems, besides the executive, that hinder organizing this support into effective channels. One inhibiting factor is the fear of the Israeli political lobby in the U.S. AIPAC (American Israeli Public Affairs Committee) is widely perceived as having nearly absolute control over US foreign policy as it relates to Israel. However, a close look at the facts reveals that AIPAC is quite often successful because the US executive has been, since 1970, in general support of Israel's foreign policy. But "general agreement" does not mean "absolute control."

For even now, in the area of the US's special "relationship" with Israel, the two governments sometimes disagree. And when this happens, it is AIPAC and Israel on the short end of the stick. For example, the recent denial by Bush and Baker of 10 billion dollars in loans to Israel. This was in spite intense lobbying by AIPAC. Furthermore, prior to 1970, relations between Israel and the US were frequently "cool."

Something else that lessens effectiveness is the anxiety that arises among those active in, and/or sympathetic to the Middle East peace movement. Much of the uneasiness stems from the notion that somehow one who opposes Israeli foreign policy is being "anti-semitic" or "self-hating", if Jewish. For according to this line of reasoning, to support the international consensus for a diplomatic solution is to endanger the lives of Jews in Israel. The good news here is that this "complex" can be refuted and transcended through common sense as applied to the facts of the matter.

For now, we'll ask the question: "What does support for Israel mean ?" Is the country's well-being enhanced? Hardly. For this type of support actually means favoring the development of a "militarized, inviable society geared towards war and subservient to US interests..." Furthermore, the likely outcome of this "development" will be—again, as Peled forewarned— the physical destruction of Israel, along with the occupied territories, and much of the rest of the area. And in the meantime, the Palestinians living in the area will continue to have degradation, destruction, and death visited upon them daily; while the Israeli government continues its slide into moral degeneration.

EarthSave

Earthsave Potluck
June 22 7pm
Urban Onion Paladia Room

Discover the link between how your food choices affect not only your health but the health of planet Earth!

List ingredients/bring utensils

Call 357-8779 for more info.

Boycott Called by the Oregon Natural Desert Association

Don't Buy That Beef!

Zachary D. Lyons

"Our boycott [of beef] is a public lands issue. The public lands...are being trashed by cows belonging to only 2% of the nation's livestock producers," say Denzel and Nancy Ferguson, two public lands activists from Oregon. "We are boycotting beef from public lands to register our disapproval of this practice. Because beef from public land and that from private land are indistinguishable in the marketplace, we are boycotting all beef. But, our hope is to drive a wedge between the two types of producers, and thereafter boycott only public land's beef We are asking for labels to show the origin of beef."

"Grazing occurs on 306 *million acres* or 73% of all public land in the 11 western states. No area is immune and few areas have escaped the onslaught of livestock including national parks, wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges, and wild and scenic rivers!" reports Bill Marlett of the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA). "Reform of grazing practices on our public lands has been almost nonexistent in the 100 plus years since livestock first set hoof on our public lands. Yet the cowboy carnage on our public land continues. The most recent figures for BLM (U.S. Bureau of Land Management) lands show that 68% are in unsatisfactory condition. Only 2% are in excellent condition. Streamside habitats, which make up only 1% of our western landscape, are the Hiroshimas of the American West. Feedlots without fences. Countless small streams have been turned into dry and lifeless skeletons. Recovery within our grandchildren's lifetimes is wishful thinking."

The Ferguson's have set the following goals for the boycott:

"1. Get either or both beef from public lands and/or from private lands labelled in the marketplace. (Note: Chicken is labelled as to state of origin).

"2. Get all cows removed from public lands that are in less than good condition.

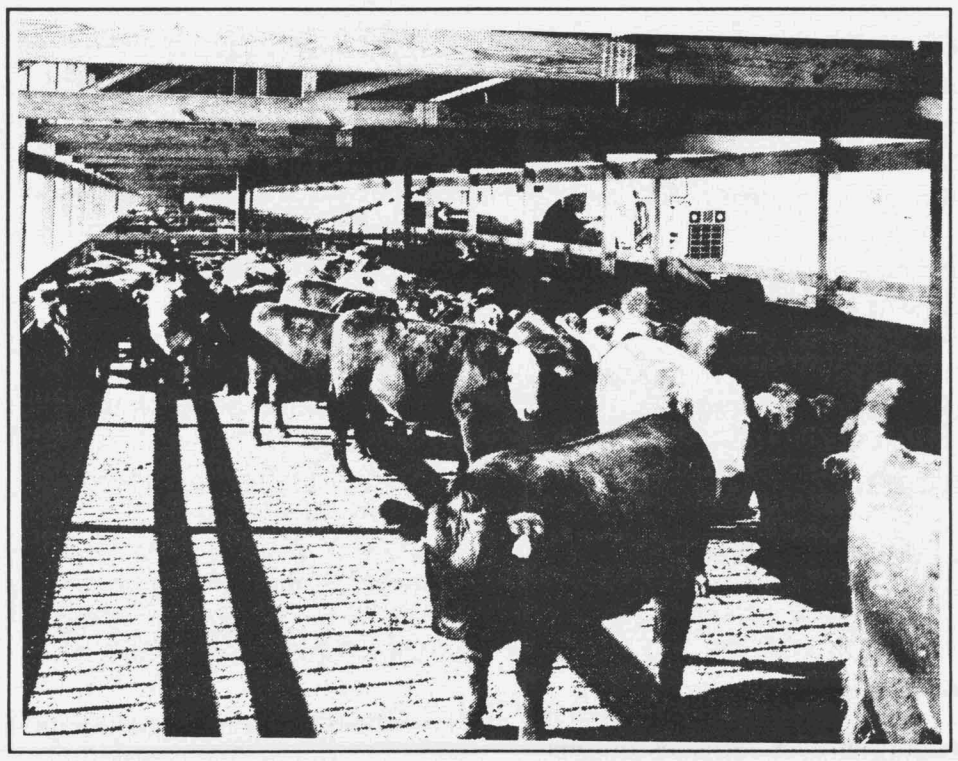
"3. Get cows removed from special public lands, such as national wildlife refuges, national parks, wilderness areas, etc.

"4. Get cows off all lands supporting species of plants or animals listed as threatened or endangered on the federal list.

"5. Get all cows off fish producing or potential fish producing streams.

"6. Ban foreign export of all meat produced on public land."

"The Distributors for Burger King Corporation purchase beef raw materials from approved suppliers who have processed the beef raw materials into the hamburger patties," wrote Michael Evans, Manager of Media Relations for Burger King. "The approved suppliers purchase their beef raw materials from beef processors that procure, process and merchandise the beef raw materials. The beef processors purchase their cattle from large commercial feedlots as well as farm feeders throughout the country, where the cattle are raised on high energy feed rations since they were approximately six months old. The feedlots purchase the feeder cattle from cow-calf ranchers who have raised the cattle since birth. Any grazing on public lands would occur while the animal was young and prior to it being placed on feed in a feedlot.



"As you can see, by the time the beef reaches our Distributors, the ability to determine whether or not the beef has been grazed on public lands is quite difficult. Given the fact that our beef supply originates not only in the United States, but also from Canada and Australia, the grazing issue becomes more clouded.

"The feed lots, beef processors and approved suppliers obtain beef from a wide geographic area," continued Evans. "This means that it is not uncommon for beef to be transported to an entirely other state, or region of the country for rearing, slaughtering or processing.

"I hope you can appreciate the difficulty of identifying whether or not a particular hamburger patty was grazed as a calf on public lands."

Nevertheless, a letter from Burger King Purchasing Director Thomas A. Narigon to its suppliers suggests that public concerns have in fact prompted the hamburger giant to try to identify the sources of its beef. It reads, "A consumer group has brought to our attention that many people have serious concerns with The U.S. Government's Department of Interior policies relating to grazing rights on environmentally sensitive land. They have asked for our help in communicating this concern to our beef vendors, and to the beef industry as a whole. We need to know if your firm has the capability of identifying the origin of the raw material used in the manufacture of our products, and if you would be in the position [of] guaranteeing that none of the raw materials used in the manufacture of Burger King brand products was sourced from cattle grazed on environmentally sensitive lands. Please respond to me at your earliest convenience."

McDonalds, on the other hand, would not respond to any of our inquiries. McDonalds took a similar approach to the Polystyrene Foam Packaging Boycott two years ago, ignoring a group of New Jersey high school students who transformed the image of Ronald McDonald into Ronald McToxic. In the end, when McDonalds succumbed to public pressure and dumped foam packaging, they claimed the boycott had nothing to do with their decision. Maybe when New York's *Village Voice* runs a front page this time with Ronald McGrazer trouncing Yellowstone National Park, McDonalds will change again and act like their customers complaints had no effect.

Still, the Fergusons add, "We have not targeted only the fast food industry, but all beef outlets. But, remember, we are really angry about federal grazing policy-not meat retailers."

"Our big-game animals are forced to compete with bellowing droves of alien cows in the summer, then come away malnourished, and too often perish *in ordinary* winters," the Fergusons point out. "Today in the west, cows alone devour more forage than did all native grazing animals before Columbus. Take away the cows, and the Blue Mountains could support ten times as many elk."

"For the sake of alien livestock on public wildlands," the Fergusons continue, "we have slaughtered, at enormous public expense, millions of magnificent predators and have driven wolves and grizzlies to the brink of extinction, with many other species close behind.

"In recent years the west has been ravaged by wildfires. Bureaucrats fret and mumble about drought, while conveniently ignoring the fact that livestock abuse has converted millions of acres of public lands to cheat grass, tumble mustard, Russian thistle, and other tinder. Cheat grass is 500 times more combustible than the native grasses it displaced and is credited with extending Idaho's fire season by two months."

"Ask: 'Is this beef from public lands?", ONDA's Marlett encourages consumers. "Whether at a restaurant, supermarket or fast food shop. The likely response will be: 'We don't know.' That's fine. Kindly tell them that unfortunately you can't buy their beef product and tell them why. Then order your tuna sandwich (dolphin safe, of course). The progressive stores and restaurants will soon pick up on the message and order only beef raised on private lands."

"Write letters to the large consumers (for example, McDonalds, Burger King, Safeway, etc.)," Marlett continues. "This is the most important step! These are the folks that can and will make a difference. For the boycott to be effective, we need them on our side. Appeal to their post earth day consciousness. They need to hear, first hand, why you want them to carry the beef boycott banner."

For more information, or to express your concerns, you may contact the Ferguson's, ONDA, McDonalds and Burger King as follows:

Streamside habitats, which make up only 1% of our western landscape, are the Hiroshimas of the American West. Feedlots without fences.

Denzel & Nancy Ferguson
Star Route
Bates, OR 97817

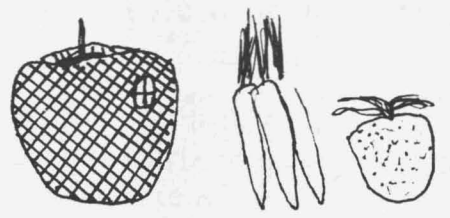
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Post Office Box 1005
Bend, OR 97709

Vice Pres, Environmental Affairs
McDonalds Corporation
Kroc Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60521

Burger King, USA
17777 Old Cutler Road
Miami, FL 33157

*The **Boycott Monthly** is written by Zachary D. Lyons and published by the Center for Economic Democracy, PO Box 64, Olympia, WA 98507-0064. Subscription rates are $35 US per year in the US, $40 US in Canada, for grocery cooperatives, non-profits and individuals.* ©1992 *CED.*

Community Supported Agriculture Is Here In Thurston County



Suzanne Anders

Where does the food you eat come from? How far does it have to travel to get here? How much fuel is used in transporting it? Is it organic? How much packaging is around your food when you purchase it?

If you are concerned about the above questions and dissatisfied with the answers, then you will be interested to learn more about Community Supported Agriculture. **Pat Moore** of **Helsing Farms** in Rochester, right here in Thurston County, is using this idea and helping to create a sustainable community with this program.

Helsing Farms is located 20 miles south of Olympia on the Chehalis River and is 60 acres in size.

Community Supported Agriculture is a popular system for food production and distribution in Europe and the eastern United States. Here's how it works: a family buys a "share" in the farm which then supplies them with weekly deliveries of vegetables in season. For our bioregion, the harvesting begins in late May or early June and continues through November, depending on the weather. The money paid in advance to the farmer is used for operating expenses throughout the year. The advantage to the farm owner is that it allows him to operate without reliance on money from banks at excessive interest rates. In effect, this program allows local agriculture in the Puget Sound region to survive by sidestepping the banking and distribution systems that would make more money from the produce than the farmer would.

In effect, this program allows local agriculture in the Puget Sound region to survive by sidestepping the banking and distribution systems that would make more money from the produce than the farmer would.

The advantage to the community and the consumer is a locally grown, **fresh** supply of organic vegetables. The broker, the wholesaler, and the retailer are bypassed, resulting in a 30-50% savings. Our food does not have to be shipped any great distance. To me this is truly living-in-place and becoming part of the bioregion again.

It is almost like Christmas every week when I pick up my box from Helsing Farms. I receive a bouquet of lovely flowers, freshly picked herbs, and whatever vegetables happen to be ready to harvest. I enjoy eating what the earth provides in its own season. The variety is excellent: lettuces, radishes, onions, spinach, beets, strawberries, peas, green beans, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, squash, basil, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, garlic, cabbage, potatoes, etc. Packaging is minimal; the same box is returned the following week for re-use. My husband and I purchased a half-share (a full-share feeds a family of four) and had more than enough for the two of us and some to share. We also did some freezing of vegetables for the winter when fresh produce is unavailable. Apple trees were planted last year and are doing well, so Pat may be able to offer apples come October.

Like most people, we are interested in eating healthier foods, and this program helps us to eat a good variety and quantity of vegetables. Recently, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine proposed the New Four Food Groups. In contrast to the old charts which recommended 4 servings of fruits and vegetables per day, the new recommendations place fruits and vegetables in separate categories (the other two categories are whole grains and legumes, with meat and dairy products as optional) and recommends 3 or more servings of vegetables per day.

Helsing Farms follows the guidelines of the Washington State Organic Certification Program and uses no herbicides for weed control nor any fungicides to control mildews and fungi. So you needn't worry about pesticide residue; in case of insect infestations, methods used are within the guidelines of the state certification program.

I enjoyed a visit to Helsing Farms last year when the strawberries were ready. Pat had organized a sort of "open farm" day, strawberry shortcake was served, a live bluegrass band entertained the group, and Pat gave tours of the farm. I enjoyed seeing the layout of the farm and the nature surrounding it and now being able to visualize where my food is coming from. I also enjoyed meeting the people responsible for growing my food. The farm employs a full-time staff of two and hires up to six additional workers throughout the season as needed for harvesting, etc. My husband and I are busy with jobs and school and although we had a garden for two years at the Olympia Community Gardens, we could not continue it due to the time crunch. Pat Moore does what he does best and we are free to do what we do best.

There are still shares available. Last year there were about 85 shares sold; this year there are 110 shareholders. Pat still has room for about 60 more shareholders this year. The price for a full-share (feeds a family of four) is $450.00 and the price for a half-share is $300.00. Since certain items like lettuce, garlic, cabbage, etc. are not easily halved, the half-share is more like a 2/3 share in quantity. Payment plans are available.

The drop points for weekly deliveries this year are:
Red Apple Natural Foods on the West side of Olympia
Another location near the Capital Mall
A location on the east side of Olympia, yet to be named
Centralia
Tenino
Tacoma
Seattle
Call Pat Moore at Helsing Farms, **273-8557** for more information.

Hi! My name is Earleen. I am a licensed massage therapist. I would like to introduce you to Swedish Body and Sports Massage, today's professional answer to stress and tension relief for physical and mental well being.

I am located at:
Expressions By Merry Ann
2417 Pacific Ave., Suite B
Olympia, WA 98501

Hours: Wed./Fri. 1:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
Sat. 10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.

By appointment, **(206) 754-1510**

Sustainable Community Roundtable

Creating A Sustainable Community Together

We are a diverse group of people who have come together out of our concern that current trends in our local and global community are not sustainable: we cannot continue indefinitely with our present patterns of consumption and development.

In the Roundtable's view, a sustainable community respects its own diversity, values the complexity of the natural world, and accepts responsibility for the social, economic and ecological well being of present and future generations, through individual and collective actions.

. . . how can we meet the needs of people for food, water, housing, jobs, and health care without destroying the ecosystem on which all life depends?

Many individuals and groups are already working on pieces of the puzzle. Some are most concerned about protecting the environment, others are more concerned with creating jobs and economic opportunity. Some focus on land use, housing, health care, water quality, transportation, education, or public safety.

The Roundtable serves the unique function of looking at the whole picture, raising awareness of how all these issues are related to our common interest in creating a sustainable future.

Specifically, our goals are to:
• Involve the community in creating a shared vision of a sustainable future.
• Share and apply knowledge through consensus, cooperation and communication.
• Advocate policies and projects leading to a sustainable community.
• Support efforts by individuals and groups working towards sustainability.
• Monitor community progress toward sustainability.

The Roundtable has a number of activities available and open to all those interested. Get involved.

• *Public forums*. Held two or three times a year to focus public attention on a specifIc topic related to creating sustainable community.
• *Networking information potlucks*. Held on the 3rd Thursday of each month as an opportunity for people to gather and share ideas about the values, principles and practices of sustainability. (call 754-7842 for location).
• *Annual Sustainable Community Status Report*. Published each fall.
• *Annual Earth Day celebration*. Held each April 22 to continue the new community tradition begun in 1991.

The Sustainable Community Roundtable can be contacted at 2129 Bethel St. NEy Olympia, WA 98506. 206/754-7842.

(Spencer, Continued)

oxygen to the brain and is considered to be deadly force.

If the Simi Valley jury proved anything, they proved that even incontrovertible evidence of a crime doesn't necessarily mean conviction if the defendants happen to be police officers and the victim is not a member of the highest social standing. The fact that the Olympia officers were never brought to trial demonstrates the extreme difficulty communities have in bringing charges of brutality against police.

Two internal police department investigations quickly exonerated its officers from any wrongdoing in connection with the death. Later it was revealed that police investigators neglected to interview a number of civilian eyewitnesses. One of the witnesses reported that investigators were not interested in recording her account when she contacted the police department. Still, the bludgeoned corpse made a coroner's inquest hearing a political necessity.

The inquest hearing was ostensibly supposed to establish the cause and manner of the death. The proceedings appeared to be a convenient form of damage control which allowed public officials a way to avoid a criminal trial. A six member jury had an option to recommend criminal charges be filed. In the end, the jury ruled the death to be an "excusable homicide".

Under the law the definition of excusable homicide is one characterized by a "lack of criminal negligence or intent". Given the gross negligence and disregard for Spencer's life as witnessed by the EMT from the firestation, it is difficult to comprehend the jury's ruling. Considering, however, the manner in which the coroner's hearing was conducted adds insight to the verdict.

At the coroner's inquest hearing there was no examination and cross-examination by opposing attorneys as in a normal court of law. During the hearing the power to direct questioning was given to one person who would act as inquisitor. Prosecuting attorney David Bruneau was imported from conservative Clallam County for this ostensibly neutral role. In order to do his job fairly, he would have to step out of his normal routine of working hand-in-hand with the police.

Coroner Judy Arnold, who presided over the hearing, publicly faulted Bruneau for obvious favor toward the police. Throughout the three days of the hearing, Bruneau cajoled and belittled witnesses who testified that the beating was excessive. While one woman sobbed on the witness stand from her distress in describing the length and the brutality of the beating, Bruneau asked her if she had only imagined it. Another witness he tried to discredit before the jury by quizzing him over his interest in violent heavy metal music he was listening to prior to the beating.

Editorial priorities and decision-making

6/20/89 Front Page

Death puzzle: drug tests

6/26/89

Coroner: Spencer death still a mystery

By Bart Potter
The Olympian

Olympia Police Commander William Curtright said he was not totally surprised by

The coroner said she was drawing no conclusions from the toxicology results. The Washington State Patrol was asked to

later the disturbance apparently involved Danny Spencer and two other men who were gone by the time police arrived.

6/30/89 The Olympian

7/17/89 Brother admits Spencer used LSD -

Tests find LSD, pot in Spencer's body

7/20/89 Printed bottom of inside page

with Frederick E. Spencer, the dead man's father. The elder Spencer has insisted that

Pharmacologist says LSD didn't kill Spen

By Bart Potter
The Olympian

toxicology test revealed Spencer had taken

death had nothing to do w

When the hearing was over Coroner Arnold stated she was "not pleased with Bruneau's biased performance. During the hearing she had admonished him for instructing the jury to weigh police witnesses testimony over the others. Unfortunately, such a lack of fundamental fairness was not enough for her to declare a new hearing. The coroner said that although Bruneau had failed at his duty to be objective, she agreed with the jury's verdict.

After infusing the public for months with the official version of events, an* Olympian *editorial summed up the hearing saying the community owed it to the police not to question the jury's verdict.

The hearing appeared to favor the police department in other ways as well. While civilian witnesses were barred from the courtroom until each was called for testimony, the police officers, their lawyers and department officials were given full access to the proceedings. In this way, the police were able to corroborate each other, strategize and counter witness testimony on a point by point basis (even though the officers were not on trial). Contrasting the legal aid available to the police officers, no one at the hearing was representing Danny Spencer.

Witness testimony often stood in stark contrast to police explanations for the injuries to Spencer's head, chest, back, abdomen, neck, arms and legs. While one civilian, who at one point helped hold Spencer's legs, said the police were just doing their job, others were upset by what they saw. A woman visiting her daughter in the neighborhood testified that she saw two officers methodically hammer Spencer with nightsticks as he lay in the street. Horrified, she ran out begging the officers to stop, saying, "For God's sake...He's not an animal!".

Bruneau's suggestion that some were imagining their stories left question as to why witnesses unrelated to Spencer would perjure themselves under oath. Since Spencer was housesitting in the neighborhood for a friend, he was a stranger to many of the witnesses with the most damaging testimony. In fact, a woman who testified she saw the officers beat Spencer 20 times before she turned away in revulsion, turned out to be the person who called the police at the onset of the incident.

On the other hand, the police had obvious reason to lie, and yet Bruneau was remarkably lax in questioning them. For example, Bruneau failed to ask the officers how Spencer received the three inch gash in his head since the officers had denied striking the head. This, in spite of the fact that the doctor testified Spencer had received a stunning baton blow which opened the gash in his head.

Nor did Bruneau raise the question of another simultaneous charge of brutality. Coincidentally, a damage claim had been filed in July of 1989 against one of the same officers in the Spencer case. An Olympia woman had to be hospitalized for facial injury after the officer allegedly smashed her face into a concrete floor while she was prone and her arms were pinned behind her. The officer was also alleged to have verbally and profanely taunted the woman who was 4'10" and weighed under 90 lbs.

Furthermore, it was apparent that the official police department version of events was not always consistent. The first official version released alleged Spencer died in the squad car enroute to the jail. Later, the police said Spencer died at the station after police officers tried to administer CPR. Neither version agreed with the EMT from the firestation, and it seemed clear that either the police department or the fireman was lying.

Regardless of who was telling the truth, "The Olympian" newspaper played a critical role in shaping public opinion about the hearing. Whether it was creative editing or simply horrendous journalism, "The Olympian" never printed the fireman's story. After infusing the public for months with the official version of events, an "Olympian" editorial summed up the hearing, saying the community owed it to the police not to question the jury's verdict. Conveniently, the editorial ignored the fact that even Coroner Arnold faulted the fairness of the hearing.

At present, the Olympia community is left with the question of how to improve the quality of our police protection. In an interview with this writer, Olympia police Cmdr. William Curtright refused to say whether the department had instituted any changes as a result of the death in police custody. Although justice may have miscarried for Danny Spencer, we must look to the future for improved openness and full police accountability to the public.

Glenn Simonsen followed the Spencer case closely, attended the coroner's inquest hearing and has asked the Olympia City Council to establish a Citizen's Review Board to monitor the police department.

WIP Article submission deadline is June 17

Also on that day, there will be a WIP meeting at SPEECH at 7pm. All are encouraged to attend and get involved. The following Tuesday, June 23, there will be a proof-reading meeting at the downtown Timberland Library at 7pm. Bring your semantic knowledge and grammar skills. Call 956-9123 for info.

Race Unity Picnic

June 14 - 11am-3 pm

The Baha'is of Thurston County invite you to a Race Unity Picnic at Tumwater Historical Park. Music volleyball and picnic lunch will be provided. For more information call 754-6697.

The Friendly Supper Club

June 13, Saturday - 6:30 pm

The Friendly Supper Club, a family potluck to support diversity, is held on the second Saturday of every month. Hosted by Dan & Lonnie Locke, 3906 Woodlawn, Olympia. For more information call 491-3765.